THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL GAY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

ZONE

MIDLANDS EDITION

SEPTEMBER 2015
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BLAZE OF GLORY

GAY FOOTBALL CLUB BIRMINGHAM BLAZE CELEBRATES 10TH BIRTHDAY

ALAN CARR

The sharp'n'sassy comedian hits the Midlands this month

+

FASHION
TECH
GROOMING
HOTLIST
COMPETITIONS

LAYTON WILLIAMS

The Bad Education star talks to Zone about his upcoming role in hit musical Hairspray

OUT

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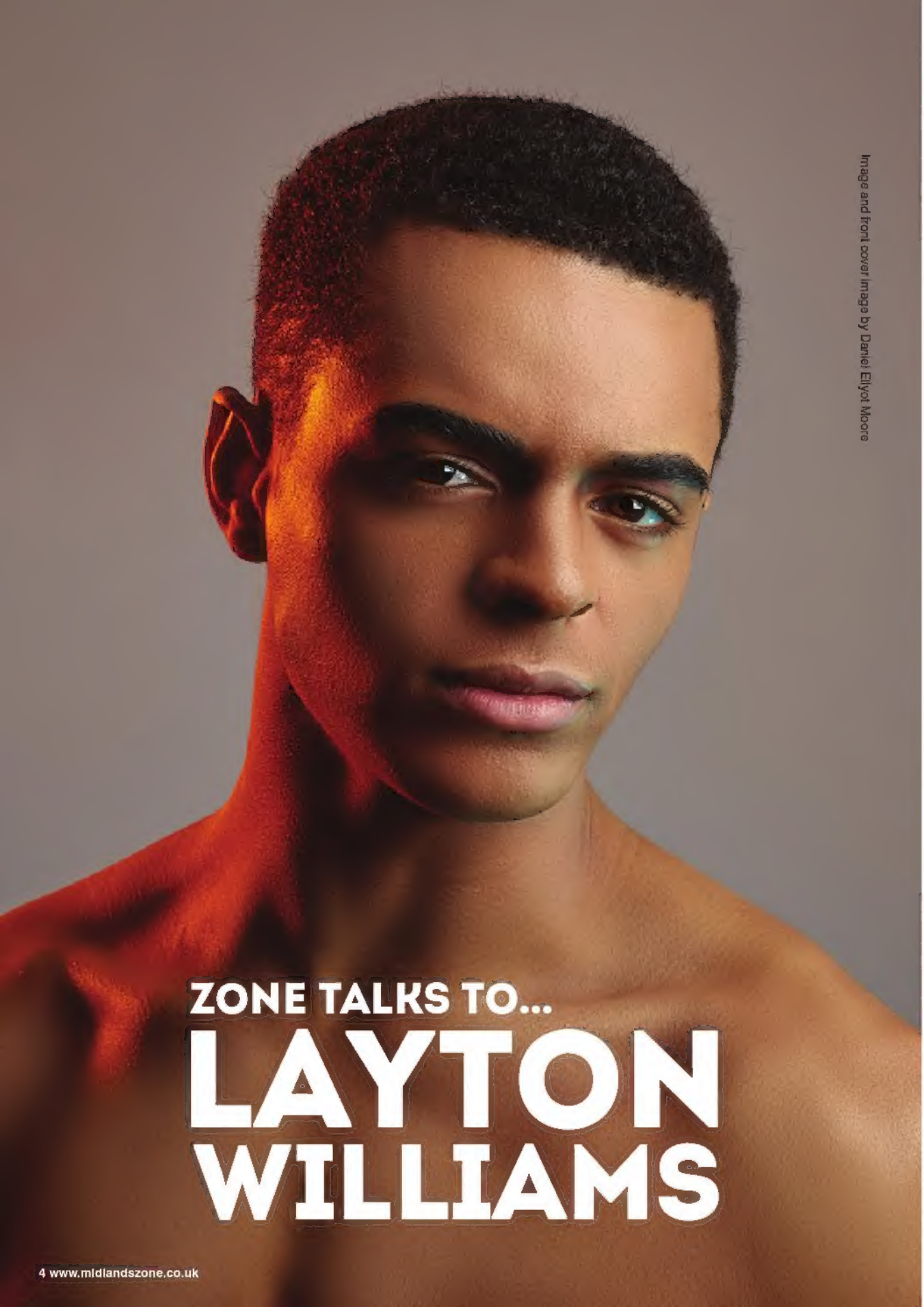


Image and front cover image by Daniel Ellyot Moore

ZONE TALKS TO...
LAYTON WILLIAMS

Layton Williams, best known for his role as Stephen Carmichael in hit BBC comedy series Bad Education, heads to the Midlands this month as part of a UK tour of Hairspray The Musical. Here, he talks to Zone about the show, his time on stage as Billy Elliot, the experience of being directed by Matthew Bourne, and his invaluable work with Stonewall...

Your career so far has been very dance led. Is dance something you'd always wanted to do?

I kind of fell into it. I'd started when I was about 11, so I just kept it up. I wish I'd been one of those kids who'd started going to ballet school at the age of three, though!

Your first big break in dance and acting came in 2007 when you took the lead role in Billy Elliot The Musical. Could you have wished for a better show in which to make your debut?

No, not really. I suppose that was what started it all - the Billy Elliot tour. I actually really didn't dance much before the audition. It was all kind of by chance and luck. I turned up at the right place, they taught me how to dance for two years and then put me on the stage.

How was the experience? What did it teach you?

At the time I didn't really know what I was getting myself into - and even now I see what a big responsibility it was as a child. You don't understand the pressure when you're that young. You just get on with it. It was definitely one of the best experiences and set me up for a career in this industry. It gave me a work ethic and I'm very happy about that.

Were you a fan of the Billy Elliot film before you got involved in the musical?

I can't really say I was, to be honest. Obviously as soon as I knew I'd be auditioning for the role, I sat down and watched it for research and thought it was amazing. I wasn't really a ballet boy back then, though.

Most recently you've been starring in Matthew Bourne's The Car Man. What's it been like working with such a renowned choreographer?

It's been amazing. Working with Matthew and his dance company is great because it feels like family. I'm actually going to be gutted to say goodbye to the team, and I'm trying not to think about it. A lot of the same dancers come back for different shows and we feel like a big unit. It's been an amazing tour, with such talented dancers. They make you feel inspired. I've never known so much talent in a company before. Matthew is just the most incredible director.

So you'd like to do more work with him in the future?

Yes, absolutely. Although I want to progress my career in other directions, I never want to say goodbye to dance. I definitely want to keep it up.

Acting wise, you've got a few credits to your name - most notably starring as Stephen in Jack Whitehall's Bad Education on BBC Three. Was that fun to film?

It was. We've known each other for so long now. A couple of us had been working on the show for a couple of years before the first series even aired. We'd literally grown up together. I was 14 years old when we first started and now I'm nearly 21. It's been a journey and we've gotten to know each other. We have such a laugh - especially in between takes, when we just crack each other up.

And then there's the recently released Bad Education movie...

Yeah! I was so excited when I saw the trailer! It just felt so real because it's my first movie ever. I'm really excited for people to see it and I hope it's going to be well received. I think it's more of a stand-alone movie, so you won't need to have seen the series on BBC Three to follow it. If you like a giggle and enjoy a story, then hopefully you'll love it.

You'll soon be playing the role of Duane in the UK tour of Hairspray The Musical, which kicks off at Curve theatre in Leicester. What excites you most about the role?

I think it's just being in the production of Hairspray, full stop. It's such an amazing show. It's big, bold and beautiful. It's got everybody in it when it comes down to race, size, you name it. It's a fun show that'll leave you with a massive smile on your face at the end. I looking forward to a bit of cheese because I've not done cheesy musical theatre since college. Billy Elliot was deep, and this is my adult musical theatre debut.

Are you looking forward to returning to a singing role?

Yeah, I'm really looking forward to that! I've not sung, danced and acted together for a while now. I'm a bit nervous about it, but that's only because I've not done it for a while. It's what I started off doing and it's what I'm about, so I'm ready.

You've got a great cast alongside you, including Tony Maudsley and Claire Sweeney. Are they a fun bunch of people to work with?

Absolutely! In fact, Tony Maudsley is in the Bad Education movie as well, so we've worked together before. He had a little cameo part, so we got to talk about Hairspray then. I've met them all at the photoshoot and they're all lovely. It's going to be a blast! It's a long old tour, with 25 venues across the UK.

Is there a dream role you'd like to play in the future?

I never really have an answer to this question, so I guess I should think hard about it! I'm very 'floaty' and don't have a goal in mind. I just go with the flow and stumble across work. But I think I'd love to play the part of Angel in the show Rent. That's a good role. I've never 'dragged up' on stage before, so that'd be quite fun!

Moving away from your career, you also do a lot of anti-homophobia work in schools with gay charity Stonewall. Why's that important to you?

The thing with my current schedule is that I rarely get a day off, so I don't get to do it much at the moment. However, I'm trying to schedule in some school visits during my tour. I think it's important because people tend to listen a bit more if they know me from Bad Education. If I can use my voice to convey positive messages, then I feel like the kids at these schools might be able to relate to me a little bit more. I'm still young, so on a level I get them. Rather than dictate to kids about homophobia and coming out, I just chat with them. It's a great way to get the message across. By the end of a session at these schools, it feels like I've done something really worthwhile.

How valuable is the work Stonewall does for young people?

Very. Even to this day something like 99% of kids hear the word gay being used in the wrong context. When I go into schools, I'm shocked by the way kids talk and the way teachers don't really act on it. So it's not like it's not happening - and as long as it is, Stonewall needs to keep doing what they're doing.

If you had to give advice to a young person struggling to accept their sexuality, what would you say to them?

I'd tell them not to suffer alone. There's always someone out there feeling the same feelings as you. Pick up the phone and call a hotline; there are so many out there. Try and speak to someone you can trust, whether it's your parents, teachers or friends. There's always someone out there who will listen to you. Don't be afraid to speak up about it.

Finally, what's next for Layton Williams?

Well, that's the thing - I really don't know! I've got the movie and Hairspray keeping me busy for a while, so we'll just have to see what happens. I've got until May 2016 to bag myself something, so I'm keeping positive! I'm keeping my options open, but for now I'm just going to ride the wave.

Curve Theatre, Leicester
Wednesday 9 to Saturday 19 September.

ALAN CARR

Zone gets chatty with the Chatty man...

A sharp'n'sassy laughter merchant renowned for blending camp comedy with belly laughs to maximum effect, Alan Carr this month makes a welcome return to the Midlands with his brand new show, Yap, Yap, Yap!. Zone recently chatted to the Chatty Man to find out what his legion of fans can expect...

In the middle of my interview with Alan Carr, a very loud police siren starts wailing in the background. "I'm so in demand even the police want me," jokes Alan. "Or maybe they've seen my act and want to arrest me!"

This is typical of the quick-witted humour of one of the country's finest comics.

Alan is about to underline just how brilliant he is by embarking on his first major stand-up tour for three years.

The show will certainly be coming to a theatre near you - the tour takes in an eye-watering one hundred-and-twenty-plus venues. So you're advised to book soon to see perhaps the UK's funniest and most cherished stand-up comedian at the very top of his game.

Alan can't wait to hit the road with the new show, Yap, Yap, Yap! The comic, who boasts a huge nationwide following after hosting thirteen series of his C4 chat show, Alan Carr Chatty Man, says, "I adore touring - it keeps me out of mischief! This is the biggest tour I've ever done.

"I get such a buzz on stage. It's a complete adrenaline rush"

"I love live comedy. Sometimes the politics of doing the chat show and booking guests can be frustrating. And occasionally you'll have a dud guest with nothing to say. But when it's just you on stage with a mic in front of lots of people who've come specifically to see you, it's fantastic. You're the boss. I get such a buzz on stage. It's a complete adrenaline rush. When you dream up new material and think, 'Great, I can add that to the set,' it's a wonderful feeling. If it works, a new joke always brings a smile to my face. It's such a thrill."

Alan's loyal fanbase is mobilised whenever he tours. "Some venues have sold out within five minutes," the comic reveals. "People have apparently been sleeping outside to get tickets. Oh please, stop it - that's sweet, but unnecessary.

"I always leave it three years between tours. I don't know how Jimmy Carr does it, touring all the time. But I'm lucky enough to have the chat show to keep me busy in between. And it means that if I haven't been touring for three years, it's more of an event when I do."

Alan has amazingly devoted fans. "They're always lovely," he enthuses. "A lot of them want to mother me. I've got one of those faces that makes women want to put me on their chest and stroke my hair. Blokes do the same - they always want to nestle me on their chests!"

"Twitter can be a nasty, spiteful place"

The warmth of his fans gives Alan a real glow. "Twitter can be a nasty, spiteful place. It makes you think the British public are awful. But Twitter isn't real. It encourages a certain type of person. The real British public are lovely. They feel they know me, and they're always bringing me presents! They bring me lots of knickers and ropey drinks for the globe on my chat show."

Such is his rapport with his fans that Alan has deliberately chosen to perform at more intimate venues on the Yap, Yap, Yap! tour. "I could've played arenas and done the tour within a month, but in those big places you can't talk to the audience. If you mention the jumper of someone in the front row, eleven thousand, nine hundred-and-ninety-nine other people say, 'What's he on about?'

"With arena shows, the material doesn't evolve. You don't want to take the gamble of trying out new stuff in front of twelve thousand people. And if you lose the room at an arena, you can't get it back because it's so big. Putting on a show in a theatre, everyone there feels they've had a unique night that won't happen anywhere else.

"When you're on stage, the audience transports you and you almost go into a trance. These people have paid good money to see you, and you can't let them down. If they've had a crap day, they just want to go out and have a laugh - and it's your responsibility to deliver. You want to perform for them because they're so lovely."

So what subjects will Alan be discussing in Yap, Yap, Yap!? "The show's very personal. It's a gamble including so much personal stuff, but it pays dividends. Also, the audience can smell it if you start lying in your act. There's an honesty in this show that people will appreciate.

"The show's about co-habiting and how it affects you. I talk about my partner. The show's about my life, so he has to be in it. I didn't want to start lying and saying I still live on my own in Stretford. My partner doesn't necessarily like being part of the show, but I said to him, 'Look, it's paying the bills. See those shoes you're wearing? Comedy bought them, so stop moaning! The show is about manning up.

"I called it Yap, Yap, Yap! because there's a lot of waffle out there. With blogs and Twitter, everyone has an opinion nowadays. I can't believe I'll be waffling on stage for two hours - I'm adding to all that waffle. It's my own fault!"

Alan's already been warming up the show: "It's had great feedback. I've been doing it on and off for the last six months. Now I can't wait to get out on the road for the real deal."

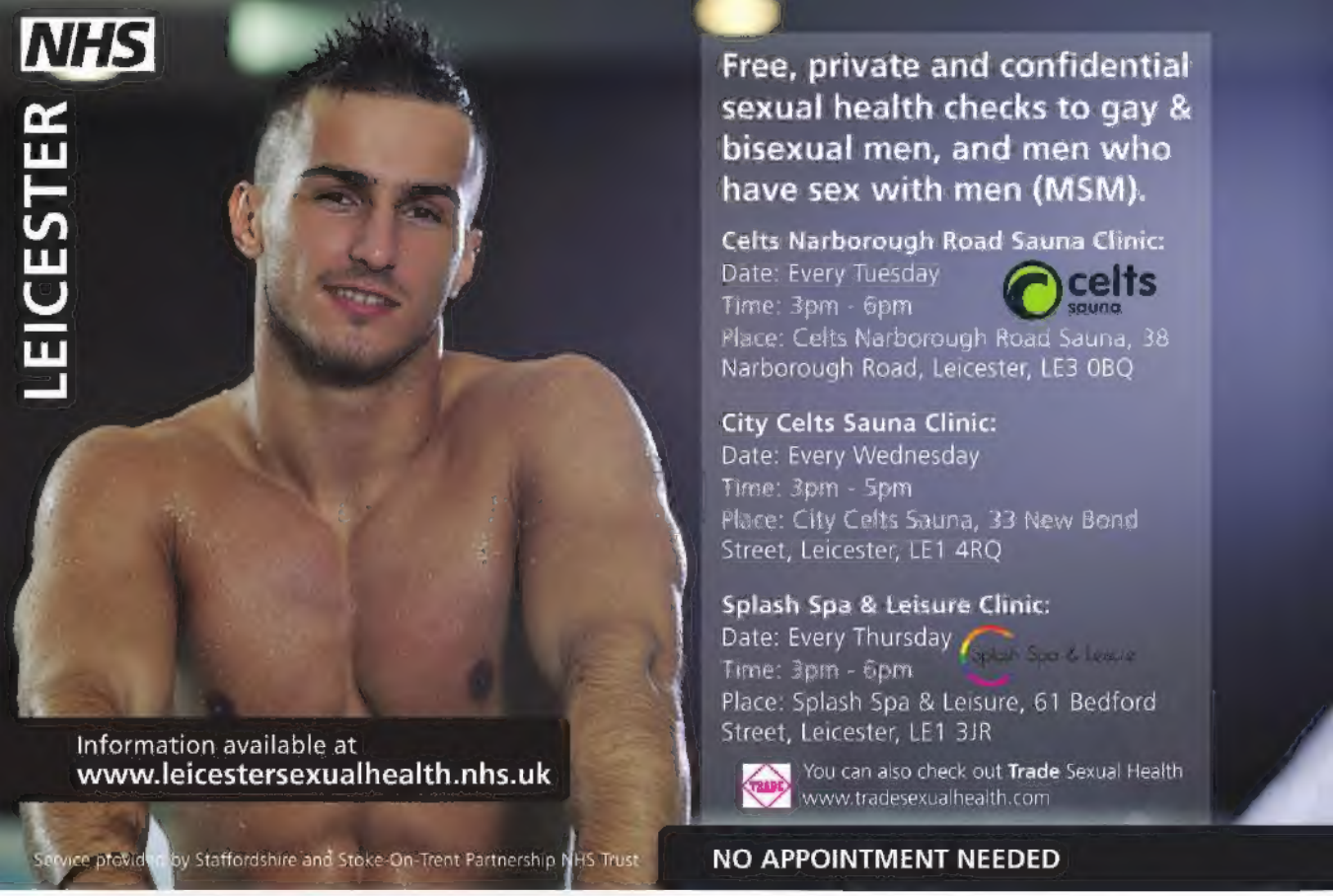
The good news is that even if you can't make it along to a live show, you'll still be able to enjoy Yap, Yap, Yap! - Alan is recording a brand new live DVD of the show at the Hammersmith Apollo on Friday 25 September. It's due for release by Universal Pictures (UK) later this autumn.

Despite his high profile, Alan remains the same really grounded person he's always been. "Fame is very nice," he observes. "I'd never take it for granted; you get lots of great opportunities. The other day I was asked to present a Pride Of Britain Award, and that was great. And I also get marvellous presents. So if the fans who're coming to the show could bring me some awful wine to put in my globe on the chat show, that would be very much appreciated!"

Birmingham Hippodrome
Fri 11 & Sat 12 September

Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
Sat 26 & Sun 27 September

"I've got one of those faces that makes women want to put me on their chest and stroke my hair"


NHS
LEICESTER
Free, private and confidential sexual health checks to gay & bisexual men, and men who have sex with men (MSM).
Celts Narborough Road Sauna Clinic:
Date: Every Tuesday
Time: 3pm - 6pm
Place: Celts Narborough Road Sauna, 38 Narborough Road, Leicester, LE3 0BQ
celts sauna
City Celts Sauna Clinic:
Date: Every Wednesday
Time: 3pm - 5pm
Place: City Celts Sauna, 33 New Bond Street, Leicester, LE1 4RQ
Splash Spa & Leisure Clinic:
Date: Every Thursday
Time: 3pm - 6pm
Place: Splash Spa & Leisure, 61 Bedford Street, Leicester, LE1 3JR
Splash Spa & Leisure
You can also check out Trade Sexual Health www.tradesexualhealth.com
TRADE
Information available at www.leicestersexualhealth.nhs.uk
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NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED

LesbianGayBisexualTransYouth
GALAXY
Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Partnership NHS Trust
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GayLife
Galaxy is a youth group for young people aged 19 and under from Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or unsure.
Gay Galaxyyouth Centre

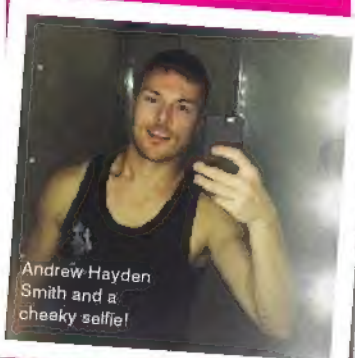
THE VIRAL ROUND UP

HERE'S WHAT WE VE BEEN LOOKING AT ONLINE...

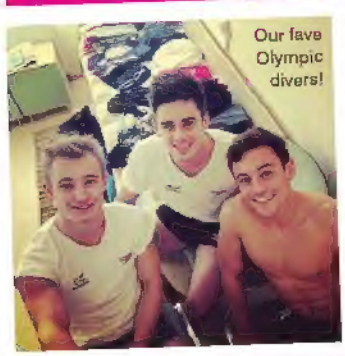
CELEB SNAPS!

OUR FAVOURITE PICTURES FROM INSTAGRAM...

We love Harry Judd when he plays with balls!



Andrew Hayden Smith and a cheeky selfie!



Our fave Olympic divers!

We all do it - spend hours on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Often, we're distracted from what we should be doing by cat videos and funny pranks - or by something feelgood that's been shared so much on the net it's officially classed as 'viral'. Well, here are some of Midlands Zone's favourites from the past month!

STONEWALL MOVIE TRAILER UNVEILED: Film depicts 1969 riots in New York City...

One video that flew across all corners of the internet last month was the first trailer for Stonewall - a film about a fictional lad who got caught up in the 1969 Stonewall Riots.

The film has been directed by Roland Emmerich and was written by openly gay writer Jon Robin Baitz. The good news is, the film looks great. The bad news? There's only a release date for the US - and that's at the end of this month (the 29th, to be precise).

Either way, watch the trailer here:: youtu.be/kNXkJMXPBGc

WATCH THIS! Lesbian couple see a penis for the first time. It's cute... and fun!

Here at Zone, we're huge fans of out and proud YouTuber Davey Wavey - he's even graced the cover of the mag before now! Anyway, he's collaborated with fellow YouTubers Jelly and Day (who're a couple BTW) so that they could see a penis for the first time. Now don't get too excited about it, boys - you don't actually get to see it - but the results are cute, funny and heartwarming. It's just a penis, after all! Anyway, click here to see it: youtu.be/hCR4Z9CMxqs

LGBT choir Rainbow Voices unveils new exhibition to celebrate 20th anniversary

An exhibition celebrating LGBT choir Rainbow Voices' twenty-year history is currently on show at the Birmingham LGBT Centre.

Launched at Voices' hugely successful 20th anniversary concert in July, the exhibition has been curated by choir member Lesley Pattenson and financially supported by Birmingham Pride.

Drawing on documents and photos from numerous contributors, the exhibition features quotes from over 40 current and past members, patrons and supporters, and takes a look at all aspects of choir life - from how it was founded (by Louis Schroeder and Paul & David Naylor-Gray) though to the costumes which the choir has worn over the years.

Other subjects covered in the exhibition include Rainbow Voices' concerts and performances, their partnerships with other organisations, and the lively social life which choir members enjoy together, often leading to lasting friendships and unexpected romances.

The display also acknowledges the choir's Musical Directors, co-ordinators and the people who work behind the scenes, as well as looking at the way in which Rainbow Voices has provided strength and support for members who've been at turning points in their life.

Anyone interested in joining Rainbow Voices can attend the New Members' Evening at mac (Midland Arts Centre) on Tuesday 15 September at 8pm.

The choir rehearses at the venue every Tuesday.

Leicester City FC LGBT supporters' group formed to combat homophobia

A new group is aiming to make life easier for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender supporters of Leicester City Football Club.

The group is being organised by Loughborough-based supporter Graeme Smith.

Graeme told the Leicester Mercury: "The idea is to provide a link between the club and the fans to work on homophobia, biphobia and transphobia to make a more friendly environment for the LGBT community and their friends and family.

"While fans are not necessarily being homophobic, there are a lot of homophobic terms used in the stand - especially when fans are shouting at the opposition players. They'll shout things like, 'Get up, you poof' when an opposition player is tackled.

"I've also heard homophobic language used against Brighton players because there's a big gay community there.

"A lot of work as been done over racism and raising the profile of women's football but not much has been done about homophobia.

"People are entitled to go to a game of football without feeling threatened."

Lesbian Romeo And Juliet

Acting Out's production of Romeo And Juliet - which sees both lovers being played by women - is being performed at Birmingham's Wellington Hotel from Thurs 24 to Sat 26 September.

The free-to-attend production starts at 8pm on all three nights.

Leicester sexual health charity wins Championing Change award

Leicester sexual health charity Trade has been selected from charities across the East Midlands as the regional winner of the Championing Change Award.

Trade received a prize of £1,000 and will now compete against charities from across England and Wales, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands for six overall prizes. The winners will be announced at the UK Final awards ceremony in October.

The Charity Achievement Awards have been created to recognise the amazing life-changing work of small and medium-sized charities.

Trade views the championing of change, both to policies and practices, as being a core part of their service.

In their efforts to reduce isolation, prevent discrimination and help the LGBT community access health services, the charity has taken part in numerous advisory groups to help shape the work being done and to ensure the voices of those using its services are heard.

One of the charity's most significant triumphs was partnering with the statutory sexual health services to deliver full sexual screening clinics in gay men's saunas.

Without any local funding when starting the project, Trade pioneered an approach that made a significant impact in reducing HIV infection and risky sexual behaviour.

Trade now presents at national conferences to share its methods of practice with others.

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Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/midlandszone and on Twitter at www.twitter.com/midlandszone

Warwick Rowers announce new crowdfunding campaign for 2016 naked charity calendar

The Warwick Rowers, the world's favourite naked calendar boys, are looking to raise money for their 2016 charity calendar

Since launching in 2009 the Rowers' calendar has raised over £300 000 for good causes - including nearly £50,000 for Sport Allies, an initiative to challenge homophobia in sport. The calendar has also helped turn the rowing club at Warwick University - which had previously suffered from chronic underfunding into one of the most competitive rowing clubs in British university sport.

The boys recently called on all their athletic stamina during a marathon eight days of shooting for their 2016 calendar and film. This year's shoot took place in numerous glamorous locations, including a country house in England, a villa in the hills above Marbella, and on the Atlantic beaches of Spain's trendy Tarifa.

Although the Rowers pride themselves on producing the calendar on a shoestring budget, the club still needs assistance in covering its costs.

Tristan, who works on the calendar on both sides of the camera, explains: "We're basically a fundraising project - the money that comes in goes straight out again. We're not sitting on some vast pile of cash. We need to pay for the production of next year's calendars, films and everything else. So every summer we come up with great deals and unique offers that make it possible for us to cover our costs and get the best value from our suppliers, so that as much of our revenue as possible can go where it's needed. "It also means our supporters get a great deal."

The Warwick Rowers 2016 crowdfunding campaign is now live at warwickrowers.org/crowdfunder.

Birmingham LGBT football team win gold at 'gay olympics' in Sweden

Birmingham's very own LGBT-friendly football team, Birmingham Blaze FC, were last month the proud recipients of a gold medal at the EuroGames in Stockholm, Sweden.

Taking place since 1992, the games are one of the largest LGBT events in the world.

Birmingham Blaze flew over to Stockholm to take part in the male football championship. After defeating other LGBT-friendly teams from across the world, Blaze lined up in the final against the Stonewall Apprentices London.

With the scores level at full-time, it needed a penalty shoot-out for Blaze to snatch glory.

The gold medal couldn't have come at a more appropriate time for Blaze, with the club this year celebrating its 10th anniversary.

READ OUR BIRMINGHAM BLAZE INTERVIEW ON P16.

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STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE
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www.lgbtalcoholsupport.org

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TRADE

New guidance for care workers to help support older people with HIV

National AIDS Trust (NAT) has developed new guidance for care workers on how to support older people living with HIV.
There is an increasingly ageing demographic of people living with HIV. A decade ago, one in eight people with the virus were over 50; this is now one in four.
As people with HIV age, they face an uncertain future. The full impact of HIV on ageing is still unknown, as are the long-term side effects of medication. What is known is that HIV stigma and discrimination is an unfortunate reality for many people living with HIV, and this is often experienced within a healthcare setting. This can be further compounded by homophobic or racist attitudes, as the communities most affected by HIV are gay men and black Africans.
So understandably people living with HIV are anxious about what will happen as they age and require more care.
Adrian, a care home resident living with HIV, said, "They broke my confidentiality telling the other residents that they shouldn't come and see me in my room because I had HIV. The staff didn't understand how HIV is passed on, so I always got the last bath of the day as they wrongly thought they had to clean everything afterwards. I was lucky though, because my social worker helped me move to a new home where things are much better."
Martin Green, NAT Trustee and Chief Executive of Care England, said: "As people working in the care industry, we all want those we support to be happy and well cared for. Living with HIV doesn't have to get in the way of that. However, HIV can make some people's care more complex. Mental health issues and depression are more common amongst people living with HIV, as well as the likelihood of having another long-term condition. This guide gives people all the information they need to be able to support and care for this small, but growing group of people."
The guide can be downloaded from the NAT website free of charge.

Gay charity receives Birmingham African communities award

Gay charity Terrence Higgins Trust (THT) has received an Engagement With African Communities award in recognition of its outstanding work building relationships with Birmingham community and faith leaders over a ten-year period.
Through the Birmingham African Forum, the charity has promoted HIV testing and safe sex within this hard-to-reach group. It's also worked with community and faith leaders to combat discrimination.
HIV continues to affect African communities disproportionately. However, the African Health & Sex Survey 2014 revealed that 72.7 percent of those surveyed were not aware of high rates of HIV among the black African community in England.
Commenting on the award, Sherine Edwards-Dodd, Health Promotion Officer at THT, said: "We're absolutely thrilled to receive this recognition. African communities remain one of the groups at increased risk of contracting HIV. It's really important that we seek every opportunity to meet with and talk to the community about testing, and the services available."

Ready, steady, go! Birmingham Swifts: The city's very own LGBT running club

Get your trainers on because we're going to get fit! The Birmingham Swifts, founded in 2014, are a running club for the LGBT community in and around Birmingham.

The Swifts' aims are: to help people of all abilities participate in running; to increase exercise and running opportunities for the LGBT community; to combat homophobia and all other forms of discrimination; and to improve people's running ability in a safe and friendly environment through training, competitions and socials.

Back in 2014, when Tommy Hall set up the Swifts, there were only one or two runners. Now, almost 18 months on, they have around 30 active members.

Currently they have two weekly runs.

On Thursday evenings the Swifts run from The Cube's theclubandspa. The course is approximately 7km (4.5 miles) and is run in such a way that faster runners can run further and get more out of their run, whilst those who're just starting out can still keep up with the group. The Swifts leave theclubandspa (canal level) at 7pm sharp. If you'd like to change, it's advised that you turn up a little earlier.

Saturdays see the Swifts take part in the international phenomenon that is parkrun. The idea behind parkrun is that you can turn up to one of many registered locations (in the Swifts' case, Cannon Hill Park) and run a timed 5km race free of charge.

Cannon Hill's parkrun regularly features over 600 entrants, so can give you a good feeling of what proper races are like.

At various points throughout the year the Swifts also run Starting Out sessions. Based on the 'Couch to 5K' programme, the sessions are there to help anyone who's new to running or exercise.

The Birmingham Swifts also encourage their members to take part in events, both locally and abroad. Members have taken part in the Birmingham 10k and half marathon. Some have even run the Hamburg Marathon.

We reckon you'd be hard pressed to find a nicer, funnier bunch of people to run with. They have regular social events as well as race and training sessions, and welcome everyone with open arms.

If you want to find out more or keep track of what the Swifts are up to, visit their website at www.birminghamswifts.co.uk, follow them on Twitter - you'll find them at @bhamswifts - and search for them on Facebook.

Lawrence Barton

Venue Owner & Birmingham Pride Festival Director
Birmingham

Born: Birmingham
Star sign: Pisces
Age: 41

About Lawrence

Where did you grow up, Lawrence?

I grew up in Billesley in Birmingham. It was a very family orientated community and I used to play on the green with my friends. Growing up in the 70s was really nice.

Single or attached?

I'm married, I met my partner Jimmy, in 1992 and we got married in 2007. So it's been 23 years!

What makes you happy?

I'm contented with my home life. I like the simple things in life, so candle lit baths, lovely music, beautiful food and spending time with Jimmy and my dogs at home. My work fulfils me, as do my friends and family.

What makes you sad?

I've been to five funerals so far this year, so shortness of life, illness and suffering also make me sad and there are a few friends and colleagues at the moment that are having a very difficult time.

What makes you angry?

I've been to five funerals so far this year, so shortness of life, illness and suffering also make me sad and there are a few friends and colleagues at the moment that are having a very difficult time.

If you could change any one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Without wishing to sound crazy, I think I've been to generous and accommodating in the past. You can be exploited. I still want to be generous and kind, but I think you can be overly generous and it leaves you open.

What's been the most embarrassing thing you've done in your life?

I did come out in full drag about five years ago and I got a bit intoxicated at The Village Inn. Tiffany (otherwise known as Lawrence Barton) fell off the stage head first which was pretty humiliating. It was a very busy night, but I got up and carried on dancing.

Coming Out

When did you first know you were gay?

I suppose I thought I knew was different. As a boy I used to like mums clothes and I think in my early teens I just kind of knew.

When did you come out?

I came out properly back in 1992. It was a few months after I'd been seeing Jimmy and I came home and told my mum.

What was school like for you as a gay teenager?

I went to an all boys school and to be fair I enjoyed school. I had a lot of fun. My sexuality wasn't really an issue for me there as wasn't out.

Have you ever had any experiences with the opposite sex?

Only a kiss! My first kiss was with a girl called Rachel, but there was no fire in the underpants.

Who was the first person you told you were gay, and what was their reaction?

Before I officially came out to my Mum, I came out to a guy called Tony Madden at college when I was 17. He laughed hysterically and said "Tell me something that we don't already know."

Your Career

When you were younger, what did you want to be?

I studied music, I played the piano, my A levels were in performing arts, theatre studies and music, so I imagined I would be a performer or a musician.

Now you operate three LGBT venues in Birmingham, the first was The Loft Lounge, followed by The Village Inn and then The Nightingale. What made you decide to venture into gay nightlife?

Prior to The Loft Lounge being conceived, it was a coffee shop that served our training rooms internally. There was an idea for it to be developed into something that served the general public as a bar. I used to work for TGI Fridays in Manchester as a barman, so it felt like a good idea. After The Loft Lounge was conceived and that had been running for a while, the opportunity presented itself to take on The Village Inn. My brother Darren, David Nash and I got together and talked about what we wanted The Village Inn to be. Ever since, it's been a huge success. As for The Nightingale Club, I've used it from the age of 18 and I loved it. So when the venue was faced with going into administration, it was quite a shock really. It was desperate for some love, attention and investment. It just needed to be operated properly and professionally. I was chuffed to bits when we were told we were the successful bidders. Since that moment, we've been investing in the club and seeing it turn around.

What sets all the venues apart from the rest?

They're all very distinctly different. I think The Village Inn has a unique atmosphere and a unique brand. It has evolved over the eight years that we have been operating it and it's very much loved. The Loft Lounge will celebrate it's tenth birthday next year and that still provides a really nice environment with a great range of cocktails and food. We intend to give it a nice birthday present at some point next year in the form of a refit. There isn't really another venue like The Loft Lounge in the gay village. The Nightingale Club has a real energy around it thanks to the great entertainment offer that we put on. That's down to our young marketing team, headed up by David Nash. I think as a venue for young people, it's an exciting venue for them to come to and now there's a reason that they'd want to come back time after time.

If you had to pick a favourite of the three?

The Village Inn. I just love the place and I love cabaret. We have the best cabaret from across the UK and my favourite part of Birmingham Pride is the cabaret marquee. It's kind of in my blood, not that I'm a cabaret artist in any way, shape or form.

What are the challenges of operating an LGBT venue in 2015?

The challenges are ensuring that the venues are fresh and that you continue to invest in them. You need to make sure that what the venue offers is kept up to date and that your products are too. I think it's about not resting on your laurels and not being complacent.

And what are the positives of operating LGBT venues in 2015?

The engagement with our customers. We've got some very long standing and loyal customers that become more than customers, because you see them so frequently and it's a close-knit community.

Where would you like to see your venues in five years' time?

I would like to think that the venues will continue and grow from strength to strength. I hope they will be servicing the generations

coming through and make a valid contribution to the gay village and still be enjoyed by whoever is using the venues then

Birmingham Pride

As the Festival Director for Birmingham Pride, is the role a challenging one for you?

Yes it is, it's challenging in a really positive way though. The role of Festival Director means that you are only a temporary custodian looking after it for a temporary period of time, so the pressure to make it a success and the pressure for it to be relevant are very important. I must ensure that Pride accommodates the evolving needs of the demographics that we serve and to make sure that it's inclusive. And of course, as it gets busier, the safety of the event is of paramount importance also

How long does it take to organise Birmingham Pride?

A year. The Pride office have already started planning next year's festival. Planning meetings have already taken place. It's a massive logistical operation that involves an incredible amount of hours and a significant amount of people, so it doesn't happen in a few weeks, it does take a long time

What's your favourite part of [illegible]

I love the carnival parade! I love the moment in the city when we are just about to do the countdown and I can see thousands of people that have put a lot there effort into showcasing and being proud of their sexuality. And in all honesty, I do love it when it reaches it's conclusion. I can reflect on everything having gone successfully and that people have had a good time. If people have had a really good time, then I can feel really, really pleased

In recent years in particular in the last three it's raised a lot of money, were you expecting to raise that much money?

I sort of benchmarked on other cities and what they have been raising and you are always hopeful that you are going to be able to raise sufficient funds, particularly when you start charging for

an event, I probably didn't expect to raise so much but I am absolutely delighted. It's a by-product of having a really successful festival and it's a brilliant mechanism for raising money for people

Every year the line-up gets bigger and better who would be your dream booking to grace the main stage of Pride?

Kylie! I would love to see Kylie, but that's because I'm 41 years old!

Next year sees the event celebrate its 20th anniversary, what can we expect?

Without revealing too much, we will want it to be the biggest line-up ever. We've had a great response on social media asking people to become involved and it will be a massive celebration. I envisage it will be ground breaking and a significant milestone for Birmingham Pride. I've said I want things to be bigger and better; I would just love to see, like every year actually, that the whole community comes together

Gay Scene

What do you most enjoy about the gay scene?

It's still distinctly different from any part of the city. There's a bohemian aspect about it, it feels like a place that brings all different types of people together. It's where people like to have fun and feel free. I still see young gay men bringing their straight girl friends down because it's unique to them

How long have you been frequenting the Midlands gay scene?

I started to come out when I was a wee boy at 16. I absolutely loved it. It was a little more underground then, but I had lots of fun

Who's your favourite cabaret act on the gay scene?

No longer performing I'm afraid, but the Dame Edna Experience because I thought she was unique. However, I always belly laugh at Sandra, she's brilliant

Who's your favourite person on the gay scene?

There are plenty of people, it's too hard to pick. I really like the boys at Eden, Garry and Cal. They are so positive and they always want to work as a team. I also get on really well with Andy at the Fox and David at Missing

What have you noticed about the way the gay scene's changed over the years?

I remember the scene when there were only several establishments and the licence hours meant that the bars usually closed midnight and the clubs were open until 2am, so you had an arguably smaller community. I would say that back in the early 90s the gay scene was more trend setting dare I say. As equality has evolved the gay scenes are not just a place for the gay community exclusively to come together and party. People refer to the past as the glory days but I think we are working towards them.

How would you change the Midlands gay scene?

I think we need a nice green area and more investment in and around the gay village. If I was making the decision, I would like to see some of it pedestrianised with water features, park benches and perhaps a public screen

Time Out

Where do you like to go on a night out?

I love going out for meals. I enjoy going to Soho in London and I like to go to Manchester to see what our rivals there are doing

What do you do to relax?

Play the piano, listen to music, eat good food and gardening. I love taking my three Shih Tzus for walkies.

What do you enjoy on telly?

I love 24 Hours in A&E. I don't watch the soaps, but I love shows about life

BLAZING IN GLORY

Recently visiting Stockholm, Sweden, to take part in the Eurogames – also dubbed the 'gay Olympic games' – Birmingham's very own gay football team, Birmingham Blaze FC, emerged from the tournament as champions. Blaze treasurer Joe Sansom talks to Zone about the experience, homophobia in sport and more.

Birmingham Blaze have been around for 10 years now. How are the team celebrating the milestone?

We're looking to set up a programme of events over the course of the year, such as hosting a tournament and getting some other teams down. We'll have a bit of a social gathering on the back of it as well. We'll try and bring in some of the original members and some of the people who founded the club 10 years ago. We haven't got specific dates arranged yet but we want to have a whole series of activities. It's early days in terms of our preparation but we're hoping to have a programme of things over the next 12 months.

Why did you decide to join Blaze?

I've always been a huge football fan. When I was at school – and knowing from a young age that I was gay – I shied away from some of the team sports. So as much as I loved football, I never actually gave myself the chance to play. As time went on, I decided I wanted to start playing football, but there weren't really very many opportunities for me. In my late twenties it seemed frightening to just rock up to the local pub team or Sunday league team and say, 'I've never really kicked a ball but I know the rules so can I join the club?'

That's when I found out about Blaze, a club set up for people like me. It's a mixed-ability club that anyone's welcome to join. I've been playing for them for nine-and-a-half years now.

Why do you think there's a need for LGBT football teams?

We still find that a lot of young LGBT people tend to shy away from team sports. I think that's why we see an under-representation of out gay players in team sports. You perhaps tend to see more in individual sports – although those who're in the limelight often still don't feel they can come out for various reasons. Team sport provides a feeling of camaraderie and friendship. You can battle it out on the pitch and then go for a beer with the lads afterwards.

What makes Birmingham Blaze a good team to play for?

I think it's that thing about acceptance. You can just turn up. Anyone can play with, train with or support the team, regardless of sexual orientation or gender. Everyone's made to feel welcome. We have a mix of abilities but the stronger players try to help the weaker players. I think regular football teams have a bit of an intimidating feel about them, which is something we've never really had at our club.

You're part of the Midlands Unity League. Is it always good fun to play other teams in the Midlands? Do you class them as local derbies?

Yes, I think we do because there's a limited number of teams in our leagues, so it's good to forge friendships with the teams we play against. We actually play in two leagues. The primary league is the national GFSN League which is the only league of its kind in the world. It's specifically for LGBT-friendly football teams. There are fourteen teams across two divisions. We end up travelling quite a lot to games, playing teams as far afield as Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle and Exeter. It can be quite expensive to travel across the country, so we only have six or seven fixtures over the course of the national league, which is why we then have the regional league.

You actually got promoted in the GFSN League this year...

Yes, we've been promoted to the top division, so we're quite excited about that. We're just about to start the new season, so

we're looking forward to giving the top division a good go.

You've forged links with Birmingham City FC and, in previous years, Aston Villa FC. Why are links with big clubs like this important?

As well as providing people with the opportunity to play, our club exists to help promote acceptance in all forms of football. We know that some of the professional clubs are also looking to do that, so they're trying to find out more about the match-day experience for their LGBT fans. That's something we can help with because of our links within the community. There have been a few national campaigns, like the Rainbow Laces Campaign and the Football vs Homophobia Month Of Action in February. I think they see the general problem of homophobia in football keeping LGBT people away from the football stands, and that's something they want to change. They want to attract people to their games and give them a good experience, but they're also keen to promote football and people getting involved in football. It's a win-win relationship with the two clubs, really.

Just recently Birmingham Blaze won gold at the Eurogames in Stockholm, Sweden. Did you expect such a great victory in a big LGBT competition?

Not really. We've never been on the fringes of that kind of success. We have a fairly small squad and we played something like seven hours of football within three days. Everyone played out of their skin and we got the result we needed, winning the final in a penalty shoot-out. We came home with the gold medal, which is by far the biggest achievement we've had as a club. We were absolutely thrilled.

And you're an inclusive club?

Absolutely. Although we market ourselves as an LGBT club, it's really an LGBT-friendly club. We do have members of the team who're straight, gay, bi. It's really just a case of anyone being welcome as long as they recognise we're an LGBT-friendly club and are keen to support our work off the pitch, promoting anti-homophobia in football.

Where does training take place and how often?

We train every Wednesday at Star City. New members are always welcome. In fact, we're planning a recruitment drive. People can just get in touch with us or come along to training. We usually play matches every other weekend, with our home games played in Solihull at Hampton FC. As well as trying to recruit players, we're also trying to recruit more friends and fans of the club, so people can get involved with off-the-field activities. We're always keen for new supporters!

What do the team get up to when not playing football?

We try to have social events - particularly at The Fox, our sponsor bar. We tend to have nights out there every once in a while. We have the annual international trip as well, which has a bit of a tour feel to it.

Let's talk about homophobia in sport. Have you ever witnessed any?

I have, yes. Nothing has been personally directed at me but you do tend to hear chants quite frequently, generally putting out the message that you're not welcome. Even though people might not know you're gay, you're hearing these chants. I think it affects whether or not people turn up to a football match. I have mixed experiences of reporting it. I'd like to say it's getting better but I don't think it is; it's still very patchy. I know the FA is keen to change it, though - working with clubs to try and challenge it.

Do you think more needs to be done to tackle it?

I don't think it's the sort of thing that you can change overnight. It's a cultural thing and I think it's going to be a generational shift from the way that football fans are now to the way they'll hopefully be in five, 10, 15 years' time. I think it would also help if there was someone from within the game who really got behind the anti-homophobia agenda. I don't think that necessarily means a Premier League player needs to come out as being gay.

Ex rugby player Ben Cohen, who's not gay, does a huge amount of work in terms of anti-bullying, particularly with an LGBT slant.

There's a lot of desire to see 'out' gay, professional footballers. If there were any, do you think it would be a positive thing for kids who're struggling to come to terms with their sexuality?

I would hope so - but it really does depend on the reaction that it gets, both from the media and the fans. I think if somebody came out and ended up getting a lot of abuse, it's only going to encourage other people to stay in the closet. But I'd certainly like to see it happen, to really test where we are in terms of homophobia in football. It might transpire that the situation is better than we thought. At the moment, though, it's too much of an unknown.

Does it matter if there isn't an out gay footballer?

It shouldn't, it absolutely shouldn't. I would like to think that every footballer, whether they're straight or gay, would support any efforts to reduce homophobia in football.

Lastly, what's next for Birmingham Blaze?

We're looking to continue our partnership with Birmingham City FC, and really want to push on in Division One of the GFSN. We're trying to grow our membership and get more people involved. We're also looking to set up a women's team. At the moment we're a mixed-gender team, but there's a call from some of the women in Birmingham to have a team for women. We're working to try to encourage more lesbian and bisexual women to play, so that's something that's important for us. And of course, there's defending our gold medal in Helsinki next year.

For more information about Birmingham Blaze FC, visit www.birminghamcityblaze.com

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Get the perfect wet shave

Let's face it, not everyone enjoys shaving. It's often seen as a chore that nobody wants to be doing first thing in the morning. However, it's something that all men do, but the question is – are you doing it correctly? Here are some tips on how to achieve a smooth, close, rash and burn free wet shave every time.

1 Prepare

Ideally, try not to shave first thing in the morning. Like you, your skin needs to wake up first. If you can, shave in the shower or bath using a fog-free mirror; otherwise, shave directly after. Hot water and steam will help to open your pores and soften the bristles, preparing them for shaving. The hair and bristles, once saturated in water, are easier to cut through.

Before shaving, preparing the skin is important, so make sure you've given your face a good clean. Avoid using soap, as you'll just dry out your face. Try using a soap-free face wash to cleanse your skin instead. Take the time to massage it in, to soften and lift the bristles. Ensuring you use hot water (typically above 48 degrees) will help to kill spot forming bacteria. Rinse the face wash off, making sure to use hot water, as it will keep your pores open and make the bristles a lot easier to remove.

2 Shave

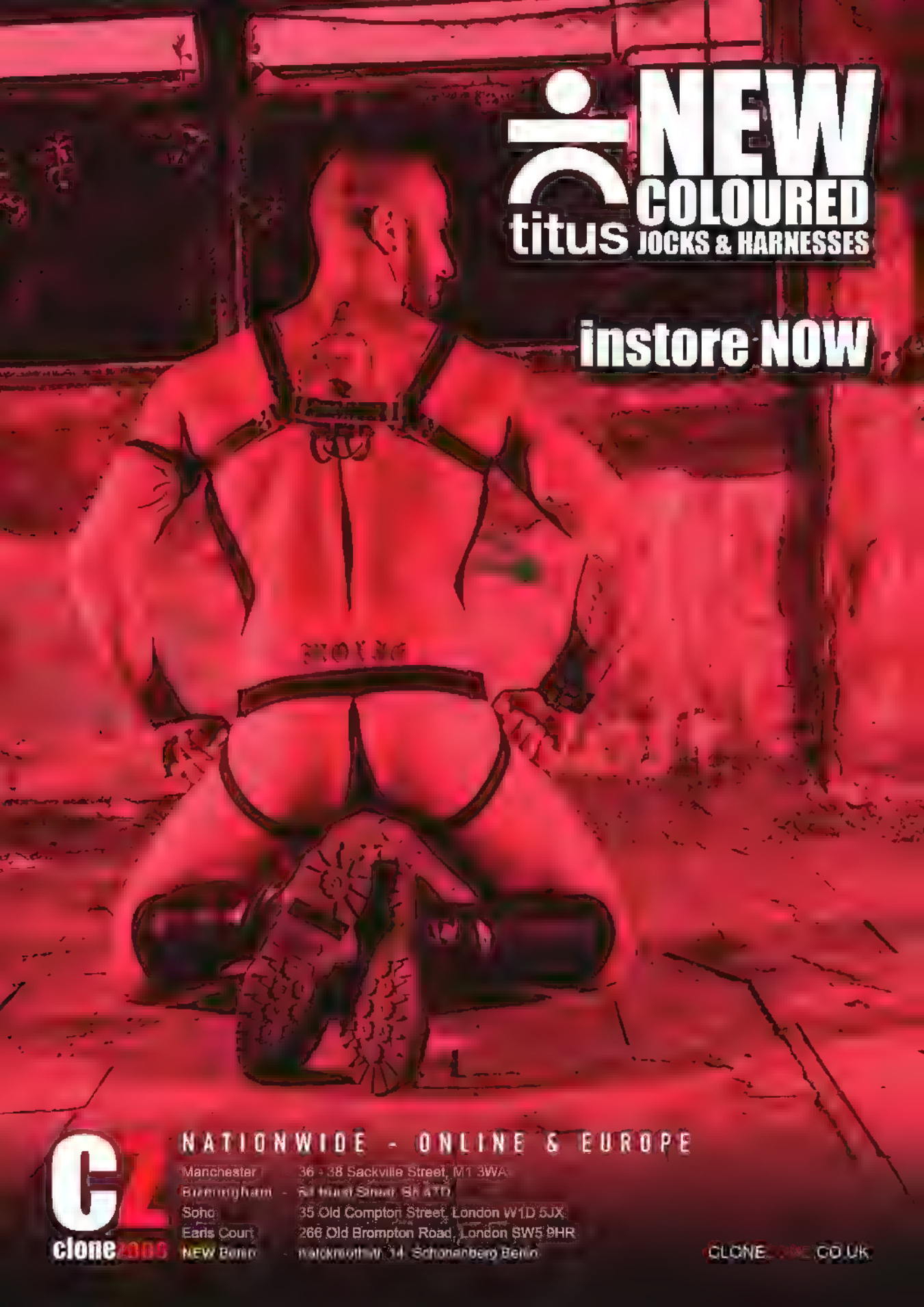
Go ahead and apply a good quality shaving product. Avoid using a foam-based solution, as it will just sit on your skin and dry out your face (not to mention make you look like Father Christmas). A low-foam gel or shaving oil is perfect. A low-foam formula will allow you to see where you're shaving, which is great for avoiding problem areas and shaping a goatee or sideburns. It should also protect, lubricate and moisturise your skin during shaving.

Ensuring you use a clean and sharp razor blade, don't rush your shave. Take your time and do it properly. Following the direction of hair growth, use short and sharp strokes. Shaving against the natural direction of hair is a primary cause of razor burn, rashes and redness. Pull the skin tight across your face, as this provides the flattest surface possible for your razor to glide across. Start off by shaving your cheeks, then your neck and then your chin, leaving your lips until last. Leaving these areas until later gives the gel more time to soften the coarser bristles. Don't forget to wash out the blade every two or three strokes to keep it clear.

Rinse the remaining gel off your face with cool water, as this will help to close your skin's pores. Pat your face dry with a clean towel, but don't rub.

3 Protect

Once you've finished, it's essential that you protect your skin by using a quality moisturiser or recovery gel. Doing so will ensure you lock in the moisture, replenish the essential oils in your skin and help to prevent irritation. It'll also leave your skin feeling smooth and supple.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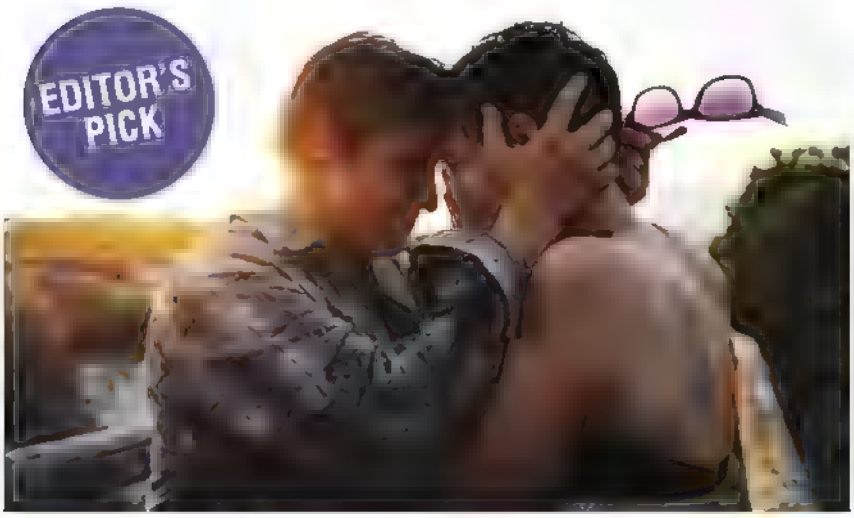
This month's hot new DVD, music and book releases...

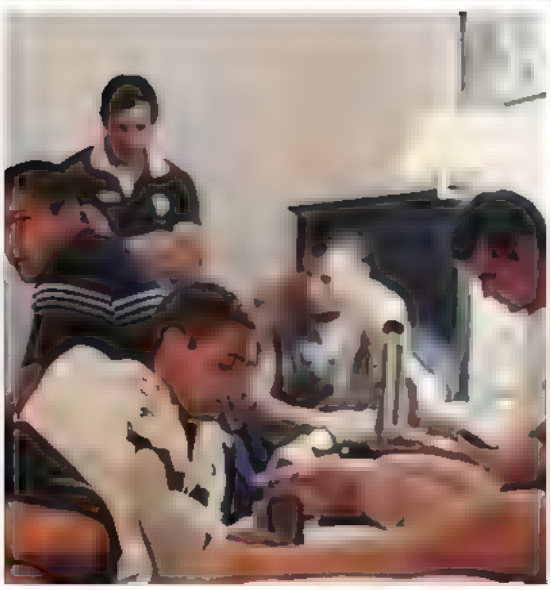


DVD 52 TUESDAYS (15)

Billie's journey to independence is accelerated when her mother Jane informs her she's going to live her life as a man. Although Billie is going to move out and live with her father, every Tuesday will be a sacred space where daughter and mother can spend time together.

Winning Best Director at Sundance and the Crystal Bear at Berlin International Film Festival - and shot in real time, every Tuesday for one year, exposing both characters' transformations - 52 Tuesdays is a remarkable and enthralling experiment in storytelling.

The movie is available on demand from Monday 14 September. You can pick up a DVD copy from Monday 28 September.

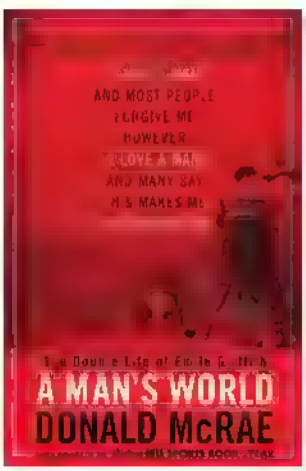


DVD FULBOY (15)

On the verge of achieving his dream career, Tomás allows his older brother Martin Farina, an inside look at his life as a professional footballer. Martin never able to fulfill his own dream of playing the game, steps into the world of Tomás and his teammates through the lens of his camera. However not everybody at the club is happy about Martin's involvement. Fulboy not only offers an uncensored, confessional look at how footballers behave during their time off the field but also reflexively interrogates Farina's aesthetic choices and point of view.

Fulboy is available on DVD from Monday 28 September.

BOOK A MAN'S WORLD by Donald McRae



On 24 March 1962, when Emile Griffith stepped into the ring in Madison Square Garden to defend his world title against Benny Paret, he was filled with rage. During their weigh-in, the Cuban challenger had denounced Griffith as a 'faggot' and minced towards him. In the macho world of boxing, there could be no greater insult. At that time, it was illegal for people of the same gender to have sex - or even for a bar to knowingly serve a drink to a gay person. It was an insinuation that could've had dangerous consequences for Griffith - especially as it was true.

In the fight that followed, Griffith pounded Paret into unconsciousness. The Cuban would die soon after, leaving Griffith haunted by what he'd done. Despite this, he went on to fight more world championship rounds than any other fighter in history, in a career that lasted for almost 20 years.

A Man's World: The Double Life Of Emile Griffith is available to buy on Thursday 10 September.

MUSIC I CRY WHEN I LAUGH by Jess Glynne

The debut album from Birmingham Pride headline artist Jess is finally here! Featuring all her smash hits and many more.

I Cry When I Laugh is available to buy now.

SURVIVE FRESHERS' WEEK

The vital 15-step 'how to' guide!

With the start of the new term at universities across the Midlands just weeks away, the thought of Freshers' Week - known for its wild parties and sexual experimentation - will undoubtedly be causing the new intake of students a few anxious moments.

Well, fear not, because we've put together a comprehensive survival guide to get you through your first few weeks. Just try not to get too drunk during Freshers' Week or you might not be in the best state for when you actually start uni!

1 Settling in

During your first week at university, it's going to be a mad rush. Get there early and give yourself a chance to settle in to your new accommodation.

2 Meeting new people

If you're staying in halls, why not leave your door open and play some music. This will make you more inviting to other people and it's a great way to make new friends. Think of all those new Twitter followers you'll be getting!

3 Parties and events

Everyone loves being sociable, so go to as many events as possible - whether it's a party down the hall or something connected to your courses. Better still, why not throw a party yourself? You never know who you'll meet!

4 Schedule your time

Most universities publish Freshers Week schedules on their websites. If you find out what's happening in advance, it'll give you a heads-up about partying the night away!

5 LGBT societies

Why not pop along and introduce yourself at your university's LGBT society? They're a great resource. Why not see if they have a Twitter account you could follow to keep up with the latest happenings?

6 Go out and party!

Freshers' Week has a serious party reputation, so go out and enjoy yourself with some new friends. You may come back with even more new friends, and university won't seem so daunting then! Just remember to get your Instagram game face on - you might not remember the night before!

7 Budget your money

Going to university may be the first time you've left home. Budgeting your money is very important - you'll have food to think about, and eating out gets expensive. Whilst going out seems like the best idea most of the time, you'll eventually start eating into money you need for other things. Unless, of course, your parents can bail you out.

8 Get the essentials

If you've got roommates, club together with them on essentials to line your cupboards. That way, if you do run out of money, at least you'll have the basics there to sustain yourself.

9 Grab an NUS card

You've probably already got your NUS Card, which entitles you to student discounts at a variety of retailers. If you haven't, what're you waiting for? It's cheap and will pay for itself in a very short space of time.

10 Utilise offers at bars

Use local discounts to save cash. Most bars, clubs and shops will be trying to get into that student loan of yours. They'll have vouchers for entry deals and drinks, so grab lots of them - the promo staff need to get rid of them. Many bars and clubs have special offers if you like and share their posts on Facebook.

11 Head down the SU

Your Student Union is a central hub and is there to provide you with essential services. It goes without saying that some are better than others and have a better range of facilities.

12 Remember: SAFE SEX

Sex is deemed to be a big part of uni life. Without sounding like your mother, stay safe by always using protection. Free condoms will be available from your Student Union, and most gay venues give away free condoms and lube too.

13 Have friends over

Staying in during Freshers Week? You're joking, right? It's actually a great idea. It can be a good way to bond with your house/flatmates in a different setting. Invite your mates over for pizza, a few DVDs, or anything that gets you involved and gets the banter flowing.

14 Freshers fairs

Most universities will have a Freshers Activities fair - great for FREE STUFF! Companies might be on-site with free samples, special offers and discount vouchers. Societies will be in evidence too. Usually these fairs are a chance to check out all the societies on offer at your uni.

15 The morning after

The morning after the night before is never easy - especially when there's a 9am lecture to get to. Wash an aspirin and a glass of juice to boost energy levels and you're good to go. Better still, drinking a pint of water before you go to bed will help prevent dehydration as you sleep (or pass out, more like).

Check out our scene diary from p39 to see what Freshers' Week parties are happening on a gay scene near you!

WE'LL MEET

WHERE RAILS OF STEEL LEAD TO RACKS OF STYLE

WHERE FASHION WEARS MIRRORED WALLS

WHERE WE SHOP THE UNEXPECTED

WHERE WE CAN BRING BEAUTY TO OUR HOMES

WHERE GADGETS GATHER TO SHOW US THE FUTURE

WHERE WE TASTE THE WORLD AT RESTAURANT TABLES

WHERE COFFEE IS SERVED WITH SECRETS TOLD

WHERE JOHN LEWIS GIVES US FOUR INSPIRING FLOORS

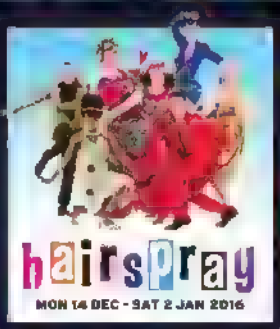
WHERE WE WALK BENEATH A ROOF OF GLASS

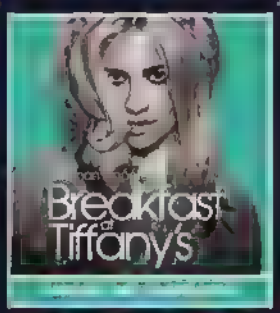
WHERE OUR BIRMINGHAM ADVENTURE BEGINS

AT GRAND CENTRAL

40 PREMIUM SHOPS, 20 ECLECTIC RESTAURANTS
AND ONE OF THE BIGGEST JOHN LEWIS
DEPARTMENT STORES IN THE UK
ALL ABOVE A TRANSFORMED NEW STREET STATION
John Lewis
crêpeaffaire
THE WHITE COMPANY
Kiehl's
Carluccio's
SQUARE PIE
FOYLES
GRAND CENTRAL
BIRMINGHAM
grandcentralbirmingham.com

WORLD CLASS THEATRE ON YOUR DOORSTEP





NEW ALEXANDRA THEATRE
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4 - 19 Sep
Tickets from £19.75
BOOK NOW 024 7655 3055 www.belgrade.co.uk

ZONE hotlist

THIS MONTH'S HOT EVENTS & THINGS TO SEE AND DO

1 BIRMINGHAM WEEKENDER

25-27 September
Around Birmingham city centre

Birmingham's leading arts organisations have come together to stage an ambitious outdoor festival - the city's largest.

You can expect a free weekend of amazing arts and entertainment, with events throughout the city centre.

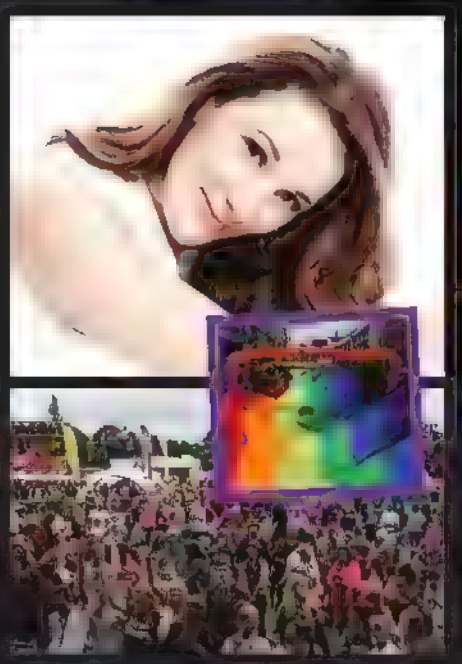
With over 100 performances and events, Birmingham Weekender is a showcase of the world-class organisations and artists that have made Birmingham their home.

More info: www.birminghamweekender.com

2 LEICESTER PRIDE

Victoria Park, Leicester, Sat 5 Sep

Leicester Pride makes a very welcome return to the city's Victoria Park early this month! So grab your rainbow flag and make your way down because headlining the event is X Factor winner Sam Bailey and the camp singing duo Diva Fever!



3 ALAN CARR: YAP, YAP, YAP!

Birmingham Hippodrome, Fri 11 - Sat 12 Sep; Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Sat 26 - Sun 27 Sep

Gay royalty and TV chat show host Alan Carr is making a welcome return to the Midlands with his brand new show - and it's set to be a camp affair! A sharp'n'sassy laughter merchant who blends camp comedy and belly laughs to excellent effect, he's often referred to as "the spiritual son of Frankie Howerd". Alan's big bag of jokes includes: "What am I supposed to do if I go bald? Get a wig? A fat, goofy, gay wig? I might as well get a piano and start an Elton John tribute act!"

4 PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon 21 - Sat 26 Sep; New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 20 - Sat 24 Oct

Get your drag out of your wardrobe, put your makeup on and jump into those heels! Priscilla is back in the Midlands this month - and boy, do we love it! Sexy star of Blue, Duncan James, plays Tick at the Regent Theatre, while Jason Donovan returns to the role - the part he played when the show originally opened in the West End - at New Alexandra Theatre.
Based on the cult movie all gays love, Priscilla the stage show has wowed both West End and Broadway audiences, picking up a coveted Olivier Award and an equally prestigious Tony Award along the sequin-strewn way.
At its heartland is an uplifting story of the friendship shared between three pals, who hop aboard a battered old bus and head off in search of love and romance. If you love camp, you'll love this.

5 JOHN LEWIS ARRIVES IN BIRMINGHAM!

Like most gays, we here at Zone love to shop until we drop, and boy are we being spoilt in Birmingham this month! That's right, the brand new John Lewis department store swings it's doors open on Thursday 24 September! Look out, credit card!

6 CRUSH THE MUSICAL

Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, Fri 4 - Sat 19 Sep

Toe-tapping tunes, witty lyrics, soaring ballads and a lesbian love story are all present and correct in this new, high-energy musical from the pen of Maureen Chadwick (Bad Girls, Footballers' Wives)... When a 1960s boarding school's proud tradition of free expression is threatened by the arrival of a conservative headmistress, it's left to the Upper Sixth to save the day...

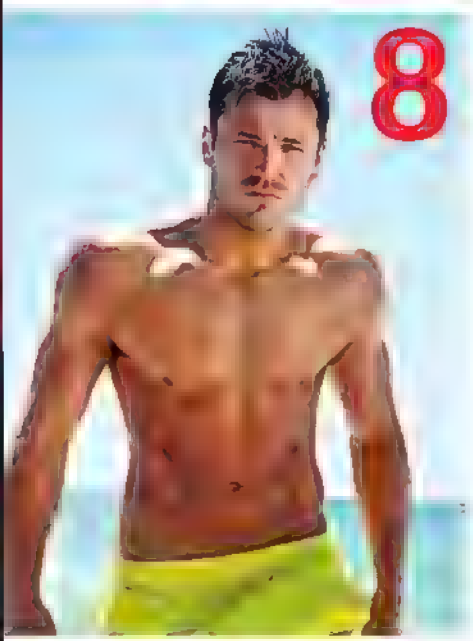
7 HAIRSPRAY

Curve Theatre, Leicester, Wed 9 - Sat 19 Sep

This new production of the smash-hit musical comedy stars openly gay Layton Williams, Freya Sutton, Tony Maudsley Peter Duncan and Claire Sweeney

Set in 1962 and boasting a jukebox-worth of 60s-style dance music and 'downtown rhythm and blues. Hairspray tells the story of a chubby teenager who enjoys an overnight rise to stardom when she earns the chance to appear on a local TV dance show

The London production has been nominated for a record-setting eleven Laurence Olivier Awards, winning in three categories, including Best New Musical



8 STYLE BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Birmingham Sat 26 - Sun 27 Sep

The beautiful Mark Wright heads to Birmingham this month to host Style Birmingham. Claiming to be the city's fashion and shopping event of the year Style Birmingham Live is a jam-packed weekend of fashion beauty and shopping.

9 THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW

Artrix, Bromsgrove, Wed 17 Sep; Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Wed 17 Sep

Hook up your fishnets, tighten your corsets and prepare to do The Time Warp again - The Rocky Horror Show is returning to the Midlands! Richard O Brien's cult production tells the tale of the straight-laced Brad and the deliciously corruptible Janet, who arrive at the castle of the alien transvestite Frank 'N Furter and witness the birth of the monster, Rocky...

10 FLORENCE & THE MACHINE

Genting Arena, Birmingham Sat 19 Sep

Rising to fame in 2009 with debut album Lungs, Florence + The Machine's songs (including Kiss With A Fist and Dog Days Are Over) have been used extensively in TV shows such as 90210, Gossip Girl and Glee making the band a huge hit on both sides of the pond. They've since released two further albums - Ceremonials (2011) and How Big, How Blue, How Beautiful (2015). The latter topped both the UK and US charts and is being supported by this UK autumn tour.

RICKI & THE FLASH CERT 12a (101 mins)

Meryl Streep returns to the music scene to play Ricki Rendazzo, a rocker who pursued her dreams of stardom over the needs of her family. Then she attempts a reconciliation with her daughter, Julie.

11 BIRMINGHAM IND. FOOD FAIR

Millennium Point, Birmingham, Sat 12 & Sun 13 Sep

A celebration of independent food and drink from suppliers from across Birmingham and the West Midlands, it gives a true taste of local flavours and offerings. Make sure you grab a sausage or two!

Friends and families set to get together for **Pink Picnic**

Sunday 13 September
Kings Heath Park, Birmingham
www.bigbt.org

Get your sandwiches and sausage rolls ready, ladies and gentlemen - it's time for another fantastic Pink Picnic in Birmingham's Kings Heath Park!
This year the event, which is organised by local charity Birmingham LGBT, is taking on a French theme. Ooh la la! So grab your baguettes berets and bulbs of garlic, and head on down for a top day of fun with family and friends a ke. The annual event's been tak ng place for quite some time now and grows bigger each year It s not just about eating and drinking, though why not bring down a football frisbee or maybe even a rounders bat? It's a great opportunity for you to meet new people whilst (hopefu y) basking in the early autumn sunshine in a lovely setting Now where did we put that bottle of Prosecco?

Out Derby: Kitty Brucknell headlines LGBT celebration

Saturday 12 September
Curzon Street, Derby
facebook.com/OutDerbyLGBT

Out Derby returns to the city this month for its annual Pride celebration - and it promises to be a great day out for all involved!
The event kicks off with a colourful and noisy procession at 11am. Starting at The Spot on London Road, it will wind its way round to Curzon Street, where the rest of the day's action takes place! There s plenty to see and do - with music from, among others, headliner Kitty Bruckne and Charlie Hea y from boy band The Risk. Stay proud, Derby!

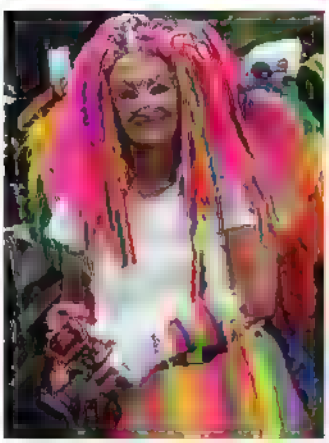
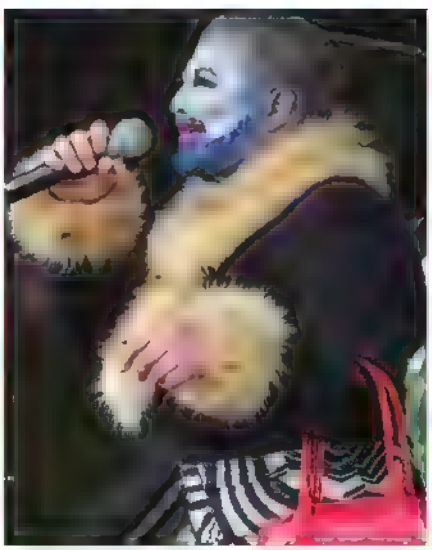
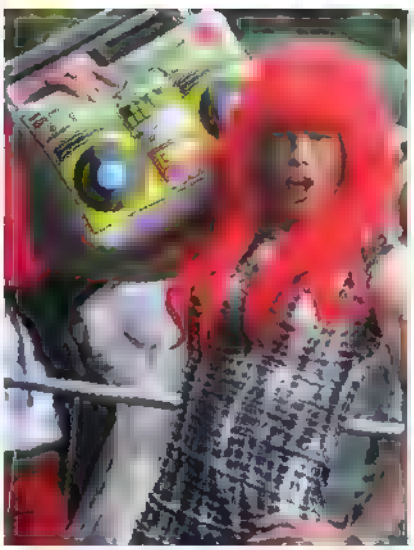
FRENCH THEMED
PINK PICNIC
EVERYONE WELCOME
at Kings Heath Park,
Birmingham (Sat Nav. B14 7TQ)
(next to the vicarage road car park on the playing field)
NO Bars NO Funfair NO Charge
www.blgbt.org
enquiry@blgbt.org 0121 643 0821
Registered Charity No. 1141568
Sunday 13 September
1pm - 5pm
Birmingham
LGBT
MIDLANDS
ZONE
MEDIA SPONSOR

Chesterfield Pride hailed a success despite soggy start

For the first time ever, Chesterfield was painted with rainbows for a day as the town hosted its debut Pride festival - despite the rain.

But it wasn't all doom and gloom - people from across Chesterfield and beyond stopped by to celebrate LGBT life diversity and equality

Entertainment included Drag Idol winner Danny Beard as well as Pride favourites Kelly Wilde and Angie Brown

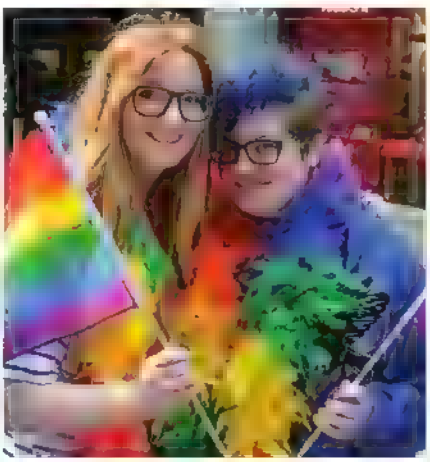




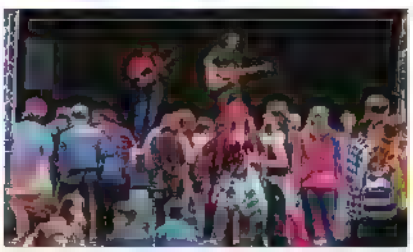
Pictures by Fox & Squirrel

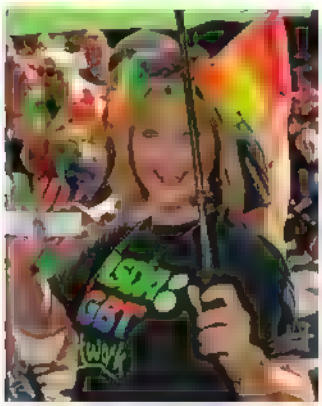
Nottinghamshire Pride parade kicks off 2015 festival

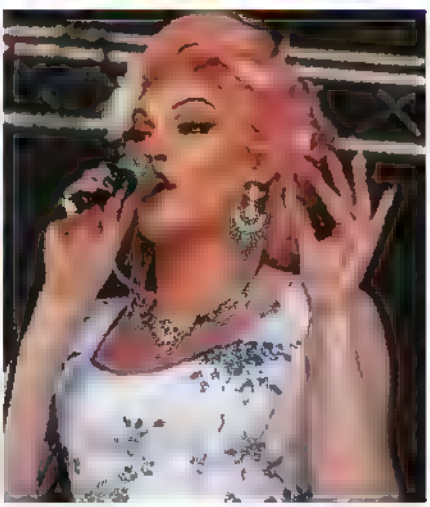
Late July saw the return of Nottinghamshire Pride - and boy, was it a colourful affair!

As in previous years the event kicked off with a fabulous through-the-streets parade of colour, rainbows and people. Then it was on to the Lace Market in Nottingham for a day of top entertainment.





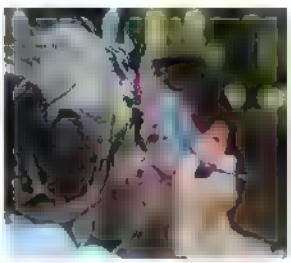


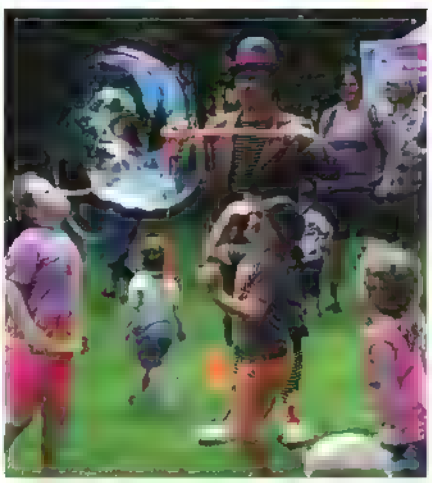


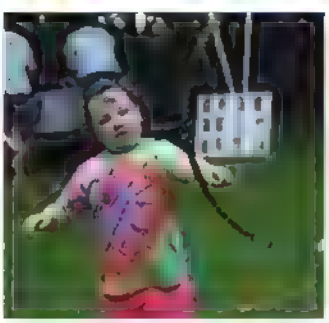
Pictures by Fox & Squirrel

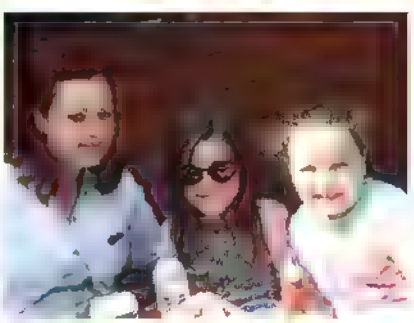
Gay Family Pride brings together families from all over!

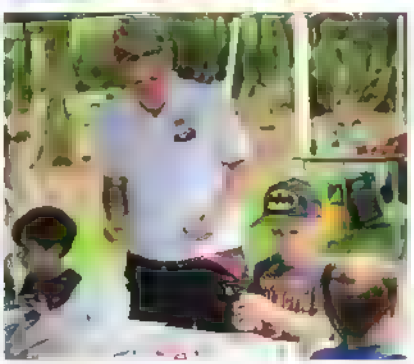
Last month saw the return of the family-friendly weekend that is Gay Family Pride.
Offering a chance for families with same-sex parents to get together in a wonderful woodland setting, the week-end-long festival included all manner of activities for children and adults to enjoy









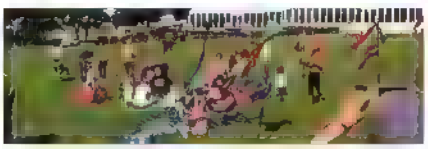


Pictures by Lei Woodhouse

Basking in the summer sun at Shrewsbury's Pink Picnic

Members of Shrewsbury's LGBT community got together last month for their annual Pink Picnic in the picturesque setting of the town's Quarry park.

Over 30 peop e attended the event dur ng the course of the afternoon and evening, relaxing n the summer sun and enjoying each other's company.



SHROPSHIRE RAINBOW FILM FESTIVAL

IN ASSOCIATION WITH Opening Out OMH

16 - 18 OCTOBER 2015

BOOK 4 FILMS GET THE 5TH FREE

10 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

Home-Grown - Sat Morn Shorts*
A selection of short films featuring everything from arm wrestling to a chance encounter on a park bench. A heart warming and occasionally heart wrenching selection of high quality short films produced here in the UK. Several directors will be present to talk about their films
Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury. 10 15 am

Around The World - Sun Morn Shorts*
A visual journey around the world through some fantastic stories and documentaries
Don't forget your passport and your tickets!
The Hive, 5 Belmont Street, Shrewsbury. 11:00 am

£5/£4 (CONCS) AVAILABLE THROUGH EVENTBRITE*

7.30pm: Opening Ceremony. Shrewsbury Town Mayor, Cllr Miles Kenny

Friday 16th October 8.00pm
THE WAY HE LOOKS (12)

Saturday 17th October 1.00pm
Double Screening
followed by discussion
MOM'S APPLE PIE
THE HEART OF THE LESBIAN MOTHER'S CUSTODY MOVEMENT
RAISING HELL

Saturday 17th October 4.30pm
SOMETHING REAL/DIRTY TALK
Intro JAYSON BEND
QUEEN & COUNTRY
Plus: Q&A with Matt Carter (Director)

Saturday 17th October 8.00pm
APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR (15)

Sunday 18th October, 1.30pm
VICTIM (12)
Plus: Q&A with Peter Scott-Presland

Sunday 18th October, 4.30pm
FOR 80 DAYS

Sunday 18th October, 6.30pm
BOY MEETS GIRL

age · Police and Crime Commissioner · ZONE · GREG AND MARIA D'AGUIAR · JACKIE STENGELHOFEN · JONATHAN CUTHILL · UNISON · pride

WIN! One of three Rocks Off sex toys!

We've teamed up with Clone Zone to give you, the lucky reader, the chance to win one of three Rocks Off prostate massagers!

If you're adventurous and are keen to try new things whilst by yourself, or for a bit of fun with someone else, then these are the tools for you!

The silicone shaft makes insertion easy and its ergonomic shape fits the body to massage the prostate and perineum with ease

The base houses the famous RO 80mm bullet which delivers amazing vibration throughout the toy and can be removed if you want non vibrating action or to use on other erogenous zones

Talking of prostates - Clone Zone have teamed up with Project SOAKED. This vibrant, aesthetically pleasing project mixes sexy imagery with charity. SOAKED was created by Mark Lister an award winning photographer to raise funds for Prostate Cancer UK.

As a result, there's a hot and sexy calender and accompanying hardback photo book that are available to purchase from Clone Zone now! It's all for a great cause, so pick one up!

To enter our competition visit www.midlandszone.co.uk and answer the following question

What charity does Project SOAKED raise money for?

A) The RSPCA
B) Prostate Cancer UK
C) Comic Relief

To enter, simply visit www.midlandszone.co.uk before Friday 25th September

WIN! A pair of tickets to see Priscilla Queen of the Desert!
To enter visit www.midlandszone.co.uk or follow us on Twitter for more information! Entries end on Friday 18 September.

WHAT'S ON IN YOUR LOCAL GAY VENUES

OUT

SEPTEMBER 2015

LA VOIX

The Britain's Got Talent finalist and cabaret sensation performs in the Midlands

RUPAUL STARS IN BRUM
Calling all Drag Race fans! Nina Flowers and William Belli head to Birmingham

NEW GORGEOUS CLUB
The popular venue gets a new location and an amazing makeover

GOGGLEBOX GALS
Sandy & Sandra come to the Midlands for live appearance and Meet & Greet

XXL LONDON

WEDNESDAYS 10PM - 3AM
SATURDAYS 10PM - 6AM
PULSE
No1 INVICTA PLAZA, LONDON SE1

WWW.XXL-LONDON.COM

BIRMINGHAM

3RD FRIDAY EVERY MONTH
10PM - 4AM
THE CORE
135 SHERLOCK ST, BIRMINGHAM

FACEBOOK.COM/XXLLONDON

LA VOIX heads to Brum for fun-filled show at Eden Bar

La Voix has become a pretty much permanent fixture at Birmingham's Eden Bar and once again returns this month with her magnificent cabaret show.

The Drag Idol winner and Britain's Got Talent semi-finalist is appearing at the ever-popular venue on Thursday 10 September. Do not miss it, folks! **EDEN - BIRMINGHAM**

RuPaul's Drag Race star **NINA FLOWERS** at The Village Inn's eighth birthday!

We'll be wishing many happy returns to award-winning Birmingham cabaret venue The Village Inn this month, as it celebrates eight glorious years of trading

The Village's birthday party takes place on Saturday 19 September - and to get you in a suitably celebratory mood they're roping in RuPaul's Drag Race star Nina Flowers! Expect one hell of a night, one hell of a show and one hell of a hangover!

Happy birthday, guys.

THE VILLAGE INN - BIRMINGHAM

STOOSHE to launch all-new Gorgeous nightclub in Wolverhampton

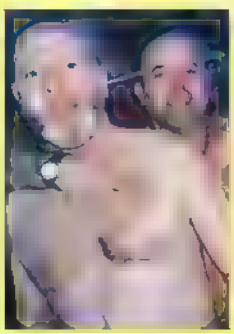
Work is under way to relocate popular Wolverhampton gay venue Gorgeous - and details of next month's launch party have recently been announced.

Three-piece pop group and former Birmingham Pride headliners Stooshe are set to perform at the brand new venue on Saturday 3 October. All the resident DJs you know and love will be there throughout the night too!

The new venue - located just across the road from Gorgeous' current site on School Street, will boast an impressive 700 capacity, two bars, an executive lounge and VIP booths.

GORGEOUS - WOLVERHAMPTON

XXL brings all the bears to Brum for monthly club night



Monthly men-only club night XXL returns to Birmingham this month - and it promises to be as good as ever!

Taking place on the third Friday of every month (Friday 18 September), the popular clubbing event sees men from across the Midlands come out to play and party!

And if you like your nights out to be a bit more on the wild side, be sure to check out the dark room upstairs!

Have fun, guys.

THE CUBE - BIRMINGHAM

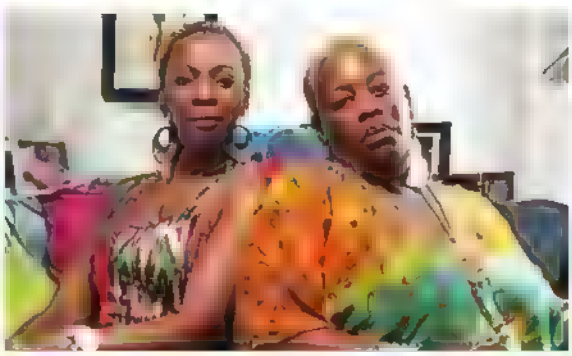
GOGGLEBOX stars to party at The Nightingale's student night

Everyone's favourite Gogglebox stars, Sandy and Sandra, are appearing at Birmingham's hugely popular Nightingale Club this month to welcome new students to the city.

The two lovely ladies - who you'll normally see sat on their sofa, munching on a Chinese whilst watching the telly - will be making a live appearance at the club - not to mention doing a meet-and-greet for all you fans out there!

If you're in Brum for uni this year, there's no better way than this to get acquainted with the city's vibrant gay scene. See you on Thursday 24 September!

NIGHTINGALE CLUB - BIRMINGHAM



MISS PENNY goes Supersized every Sunday at Missing Bar

Make your Sunday nights more interesting by heading down to Missing Bar in Birmingham for a night of cabaret fun with Miss Penny!

The pasty-loving singing sensation will gear you up for a week at work or uni by making sure you have one helluva fabulous night out.

Go on - you know you want to!

MISSING - BIRMINGHAM

THE VILL

FRIDAY CABARET

FRI 4TH
BAGA CHIPZ

FRI 11TH
MISS MARTY

FRI 18TH
SON OF A TUTU

FRI 25TH
SANDRA

NEW

EVERY MONDAY

BAGA CHIPZ

DRINKS FROM £1

PLUS GAMES, FELCHING & SONGS

Open your SNATCH

BIG PRIZES, BOOZE, BOOBS & BREEDS.

EVERY TUESDAY

WITH MISS PENNY

AGE INN
SEPTEMBER
RU PAUL DRAG RACE STAR
NINA FLOWERS
SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER
8TH BIRTHDAY WEEKEND
VILLAGEINNBIRMINGHAM
@VILLAGEBRUM
THEVILLAGEBIRMINGHAM

MONDAY

September 7 14 21 28

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
The Loft Lounge

MIKISTRY OF POUND with Dj Mike Emery from 9pm Selected drinks £1 Open until 2am
Missing Bar

CABARET WITH BAGA CHIPZ
Every Monday night, head down to the Village Inn for a night of fun cabaret with the incredible Baga Chipz It's not to be missed
The Village Inn

SUGAR RUSH £2 entry
Nightingale Club

MONDAY MADNESS Weekly dr... Dj Matt Happy Hou...
Bar Jester

OUTSKIRTS
... & 3rd Monday mo...
Bar Jester

POUNDED
F... ring Strongbow
Sidewalk

WEST MIDLANDS

FABULOUS Fun & Games with resident host Marty (The girl who likes to party) ***Mon 7 Sept*** - Live cabaret with Glitter Lips. Free admission before midnight and just £3 after Great drinks offers all night long with drinks starting at just £1!
C:21, Shrewsbury

THE MONDAY CLUB 9pm-5am Student night Everything is £2 (Shots £1) with Dj Lee Edward
Gorgeous, Wolverhampton

CHILL NIGHT with Karaok...
Three Furnaces, Telford

GET THE PARTY STARTED Free ...mission With Dj Foxy Divi... ...bpm 4am
Gossip, Stoke on Trent

STUDENT NIGHT Free adm... ...nks £1 50 before midnight
Pink, Stoke on Trent

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2 Open from 2pm till 2am ...phere
The Boston, Northampton

DISCO 7pm-midnight
New Foresters, Nottingham

TUESDAY

September 1 8 15 22 29

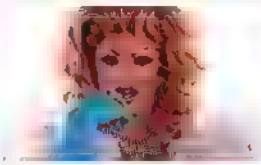
BIRMINGHAM

90'S NIGHT - Every Tuesday night 10 30pm-3am
Nightingale Club

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
The Loft Lounge

SCREAM STAR SUPERSTAR With your host Karaoke temptress Gavina Party starts at 9pm ...ate
Missing Bar

OPEN YOUR SNATCH Songs Games & Prizes with Miss Penny
The Village Inn



TUNE UP TUESDAY Fun & Games ... 10...
Bar Jester

WEST MIDLANDS

...DAY NIGHT ...
n Drinks from £1 2 roon...

music
The Lion Bar & Club, Walsall

CAMP QUIZ W... arts 8 30pm
Three Furnaces, Telford

... night with D... and from ...
Velvet, Worcester

FLAUNT A twist of awesome tunes ... suit every ...
Brewery Tap, Worcester

... 1pm
The White Hart, Wolverhampton

TWISTED TUESDAYS Hostel ... Darling Open 9pm-3am
Rainbows, Coventry

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2 Open from 2pm ti... 2a... a quiet drin... ...he...
The Boston, Northampton

CHILL OUT NIGHT Free Pool 6 ... midnight
New Foresters, Nottingham

... ...xtendo W...
Dover Castle, Leicester

[illegible]

September 2 9 16 23 30

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
The Loft Lounge

2 GOOD 2 MISS Drinks from just £2 with Dj Mike Emery **Missing Bar**

KILLER KARAOKE - with Charlotte the Harlotte
The Village Inn

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS ... ...eathers at Sidewa...
Sidewalk

DADDY'S DEALS AND FREE POOL ...
The Fox

... Hattie James with D... Hour ...nt 2am Open 1 0n
Bar Jester

WEDNESDAY LINE ...ine Da... ...ved nig...
The Wellington

WEST MIDLANDS

... ...
Rainbows, Coventry

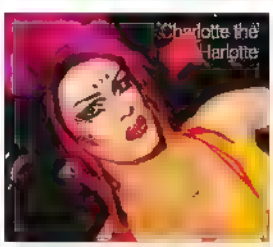
STUDENT CLUB NIGHT ...
Three Furnaces, Telford

... ...pm-mid...
Rainbows, Coventry

EAST MIDLANDS

GAMES NIGHT ...
New Foresters, Nottingham

KARAOKE 9pm t... ...
The Boston, Northampton



[illegible]

September 8 15 22 29

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
The Loft Lounge

CHARLIE HIDE ***Thurs 3 & 17 Sept*** Live cabaret from the celebrity impersonator famous for her take Madonna Cher and more
Eden

CULT Bringing dirty house back home Top Floor from 10pm
Nightingale Club

CAMPITY CAMP with Marty Happy Hour 12noon-2am
The Village Inn

I <3 THE 90S with Dj Dan Open from 6pm
Eden

LA VOIX ***Thurs 10 Sept*** Live cabaret from 10pm with Britain's Got Talent star La Voix
Eden

POUNDED £5 entry Drinks from a £1 Dj Corey playing chart and dance on whilst Miss Marty and Dj Craig with all the pop and cheese on the middle floor
Nightingale Club

GOGGLEBOX'S SANDY & SANDRA ***Thurs 24 Sept*** Live appearance of everyone's favourite Gogglebox duo at this Pounded special!
Nightingale Club

THROWBACK THURSDAY £1 20 bombs and great music **Missing**

DROP THE BOMB ...
Sidewalk

SHOT EXCHANGE Dr... ...
The Core

WEST MIDLANDS

12.01 with DJ James Levett Open from Midnight until 5am with drinks from £1
Gorgeous, Wolves

... Big value drinks W...
The Lion, Walsall

DISCO & DJ A night of fun wi...
The White Hart, Wolverhampton

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2 Open from 2pm til 2... a quiet drin...
The Boston, Northampton

A SUMMER OF FUN AT

THE BIGGEST GAY MONDAY NIGHT IN THE MIDLANDS!

Fabulous

Join Birmingham's award-winning

Marty 'the girl that likes to party'

Every monday from 10pm

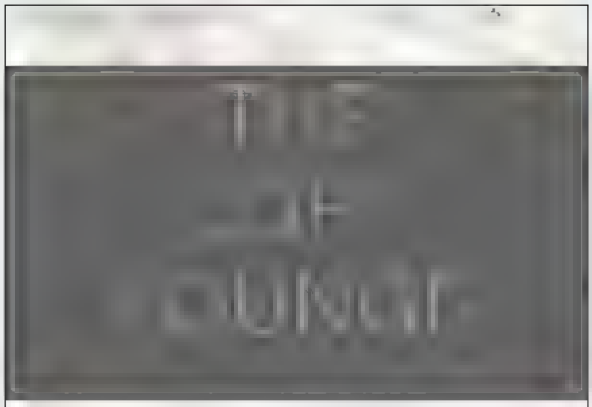
PLUS:
HAPPY HOUR FROM 10PM
DRINKS FROM £1 ALL NIGHT!

MON 7 SEP GLITTER LIPS

MON 5 OCT VICKY JACKSON AS KATY PERRY

C:21

18-21 ABBEY FOREGATE, SHREWSBURY, SHROPSHIRE SY2 6AE.
TEL: 01743 271821 WWW.C21SHREWSBURY.CO.UK



SATURDAYS

DJ LISA SHARRED
PLAYING CHILLED HOUSE
4PM- 8PM

THE LOFT LOUNGE COURTYARD

loft.birmingham
@loftlounge2
loftbirmingham

0121 622 2444

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two.
The Loft Lounge

ALL DAY EVERY DAY PRICES DJ Parm takes over the weekend by playing the best of club classics, house, R&B and all your favourites. Enjoy all day every day prices too!
[illegible]

BIG GAY FRIDAY Party anthems all night long with Missing's DJ James. Open until the early hours.
[illegible]

DISCO & KARAOKE with Dj Nikki.
Eden Bar

FREAKY FRIDAY Big name cabaret at midnight. Open until 6am. ***Fri 4 Sept*** Baga Chipz. ***Fri 11 Sept*** Miss Marty. ***Fri 18 Sept*** Son of a Tutu. ***Fri 25 Sept*** Sandra.
The Village Inn

INFUSION Free Entry. Absolute Anthems and Floor Fillers with Dj Corey. Drinks from £2. Admission £2.
Nightingale Club

KICK START Kick start the weekend from 9pm til the early hours. Hosted by James.
[illegible]

L8R With Charlotte the Harlotte. Open Until 6am every Friday.
The Village Inn

LIP GLOSS - ***Fri 4 Sept*** - With host Miss Penny. Live entertainment from Kara Van Park and stripper Rumble.
[illegible]

MIDSBEARS - ***Fri 18 Sept*** - Monthly meet up and social group for Bears and Admirers with special guest Paul Middleton. **Eden Bar**

OLD SKOOL GARAGE The first Friday of the month sees the Nightingale go back in time, playing some of the best in old skool garage. A night not to be missed.
Nightingale Club

SAATHI - ***Fri 25 Sept*** - Every last Friday monthly. South Asian Gay and Lesbian club night. Bollywood and Bhangra.
Nightingale Club

SING STAR SUPERSTAR with Dj

Nikki every Friday - your chance to win cash.
Eden Bar

VINTAGE FRIDAYS a night of soul, funk, rock, motown, Northern Soul and all the classic favourites.
The Loft Lounge

XXL - ***Fri 18 July*** - Men only night with Dj Christian M. Early Bear offers until 11pm. Every 3rd Friday of each month.
The Core Club

FUNK D UP [illegible]
Uplifting [illegible]
[illegible]
Club Chic

[illegible]
[illegible]
The Fox

RETRO FRIDAY Retro [illegible]
Dj Matt. Happy H[illegible]
Open 9pm until ver[illegible]
Bar Jester

WEST MIDLANDS

YOLO! Gorgeous residents spinning house and classics. Earlybird drinks from £1.50 with free entry before 11pm. 10.30pm - 5.30am.
Gorgeous Club, Wolverhampton

BANG [illegible]
[illegible]
The Lion, Walsall

TV PARTY NIGHT A[illegible]
[illegible]
The Greenhouse, Darlaston

CLUB NIGHT [illegible]
[illegible]
The Three Furnaces, Telford

FREE ENTRY FRIDAYS
[illegible]
Rainbows, Coventry

FRIDAY SOCIAL with Dj [illegible]
& d[illegible]
The Bell, Stourbridge

WEEKLY [illegible]
[illegible] 0am. Open at [illegible]
The White Hart, Wolverhampton

START THE WEEKEND Free a[illegible]
on before 11pm. Tanya Hyde[illegible]
[illegible]baret show from 10pm.
Pink, Stoke on Trent

TFI FRIDAY A fun and funky mix[illegible]
[illegible]
Brewery Tap, Worcester

EAST MIDLANDS

CLUB NIGHT [illegible]
Lambeth[illegible]
[illegible]nan from[illegible]
Helsinki, Leicester

PINK BOUNDER [illegible]
with Dj Cra[illegible]
Open 10pm[illegible]
The Boston, Northampton

BIRMINGHAM

80S HITS with DJ Dan from 2am It's back to the 80s with cheap drink promotions
Eden Bar

THE ATTIC Available for hire Call the venue for more info 0121 622 4256
Missing Bar

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT Over 2 floors, 3 DJs Open til 8am With DJ Lotty & DJ Richard Moon. With DJ Tonie in The Village Underground
The Village Inn

BIG SATURGAY NIGHT OUT Every Saturday with loads of drinks promotions
Nightingale Club

CULT Bringing dirty house back home Top Floor from 10pm
Nightingale Club

DANNY BEARD - *Sat 26 Sept* - A night of fun cabaret with Drag Idol 2015 winner Danny Beard
Eden

FABULOUS SATURDAYS Get the red carpet treatment with your host and hostess Cherub and Miss Hallie James, keeping you entertained with podium dances and fantastic music. Entry £5 10pm until 3am with the first 25 customers having FREE ENTRY
The Core Club

KARAOKE & COCKTAILS in The Attic, plus music from across the decades
Missing

L8R With Charlotte the Harlotte Open until 8am every Saturday
The Village Inn

MARY MAC - *Sat 26 Sept* - A night of fun cabaret with the tartan wrapped Scottish entertainer Mary Mac
Eden

YOUR DISCO NEEDS YOU featuring the biggest remixes, absolute anthems, dance classics, disco, house and commercial. Featuring Twiggy and sexy door boys. Open until 4am
Missing Bar

PEARL - *Sat 1 August* - Live PA from RuPaul's Drag Race star Pearl! Tickets from www.theticketsellers.co.uk
Nightingale Club

SATURDAY SESSIONS With DJ Simon Baker from 8pm
The Loft Lounge

SATURS-FACTION Welcome in the weekend with resident DJs playing the best of everything
Eden

SWAGGERLICIOUS Every Saturday night (Room 4)
Nightingale Club

THE BREAKFAST CLUB Every Saturday
Club Chic

DJ NIKKI 1st Sat. monthly
Equator Bar

DJ [illegible] NIGHT
The Fox

#JUST SAYING Get in the [illegible]
Bar Jester

KARAOKE Every Sat n[illegible]
The Wellington

WEST MIDLANDS

SLAG 10pm-6am. Earlybird drinks from £1.50. DJs Paul Bryant, James Levett & Josh B. Plus weekly guests
Gorgeous, Wolverhampton

BIG NIGHT OUT Big D[illegible]

[illegible]
The Lion, Walsall

CLUB NIGHT Drink promos unt[illegible] 7.45 Free entry [illegible]
The Three Furnaces, Telford

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT [illegible] & Charts Open midday-4pm & [illegible]
Rainbows, Coventry

INCLUSION with bra[illegible] Birmingham & UK DJs every week
The Bell, Stourbridge

NOT TO MISS Free admission [illegible] T[illegible]
Pink, Stoke on Trent

WEEKLY CABARET with D[illegible]
The White Hart, Wolverhampton

EAST MIDLANDS

[illegible] SESSION PARTY NIGHT [illegible] 0pm til 6am Free entry before [illegible] ore 1am and £5 after
The Boston, Northampton

CLUB NIGHT [illegible] ng floor h[illegible]
Helsinki, Leicester

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
The Loft Lounge

DISCO & KARAOKE with DJ Nikki Every Sunday
Eden Bar

LOCAL CABARET with Charlotte the Harlotte Showcasing the best of the Midlands cabaret circuit every Sunday
Eden Bar

MISS PENNY'S SUPERSIZE SUNDAYS Cabaret every Sunday hosted by the one and only Miss Penny on stage at 8.30pm and 10.30pm
Missing Bar

SUNDAY BREAKFAST The perfect hangover cure from 9am Just £7.95 Carvery from 12noon for just £9.95
The Loft Lounge

SUPER SUNDAY DINNER [illegible]
Sidewalk

CHILL OUT [illegible]tday promotions Open [illegible]pm-late
The Fox

SUNDAY IS FUNDAY with E[illegible]
Bar Jester

THREE COURSE LUNCH only £7.50
The Wellington

WEST MIDLANDS

MARTY'S PARTY 9pm-4am Fun & Games Karaoke Prizes and all round mayhem Drinks from £2
Gorgeous, Wolverhampton

CHILL OUT After the party
Rainbows, Coventry

THE PARTY TEMPLE [illegible] [illegible]
Lion Bar & Club, Walsall

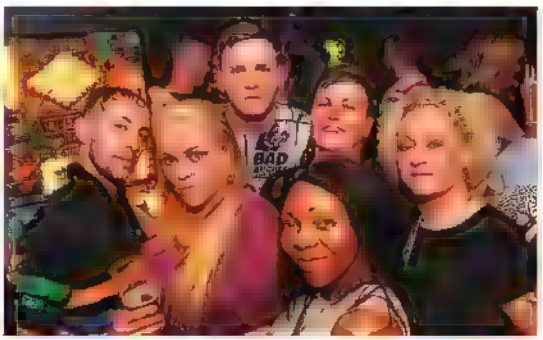
KARAOKE & DJ A night of fu[illegible] nos ess Glamour
The White Hart, Wolverhampton

RANDOM PARTY NIGHT [illegible] pm-2am with dr nk pron[illegible]
Three Furnaces, Telford

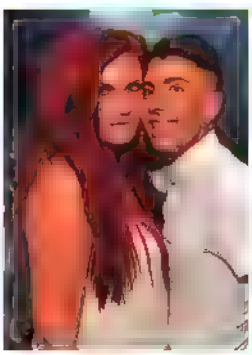
EAST MIDLANDS

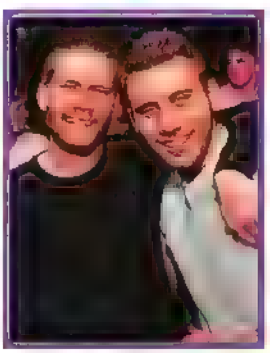
BRUNCH CLUB Brunch for £5 wi[illegible] nlimited soft drinks, middle[illegible]
Rainbow & Dove, Leicester

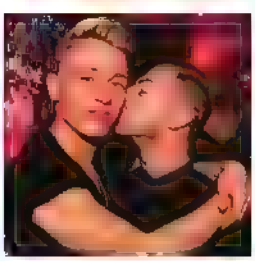
The party's pumping at **Gorgeous** in Wolverhampton!



More great photos on **facebook**
facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk







Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

THE GORGEOUS GRAND OPENING

SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2015

700 CAPACITY | 2 BARS | EXECUTIVE LOUNGE | VIP BOOTHS

STUNNING SOUND & LIGHTING

sloosh.

PLUS RESIDENT DJ'S

ABEYANCE | JOE CAMPBELL | ROB COOK

PAUL BRYANT | JAMES LEVETT | CHRIS E

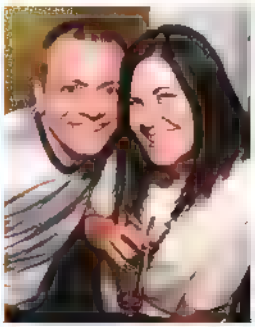
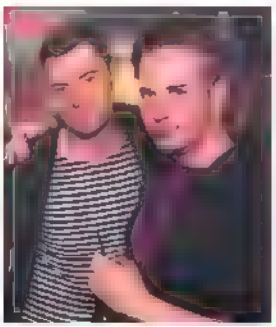
GORGEOUS

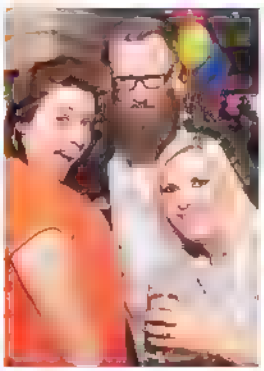
FOR MORE INFO VISIT

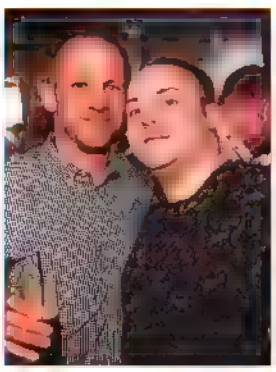
WWW.GORGEOUSCLUB.CO.UK

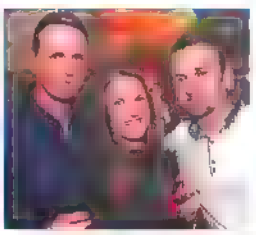
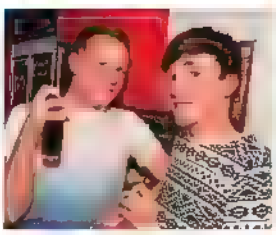
GORGEOUS CLUB | SCHOOL STREET | WOLVERHAMPTON | WV1 4LF | 01902 771122

A top night out with Twiggy at Brum's **Missing**!

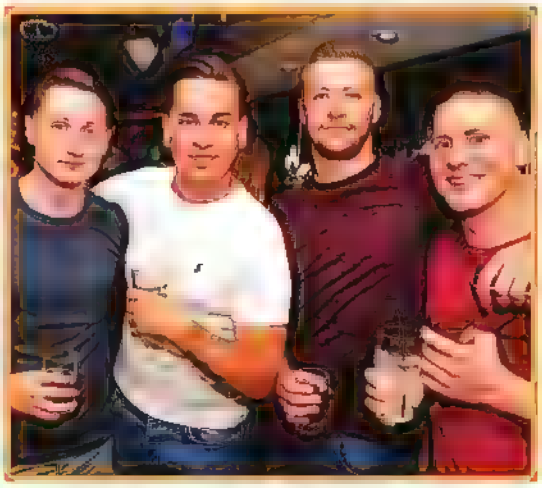


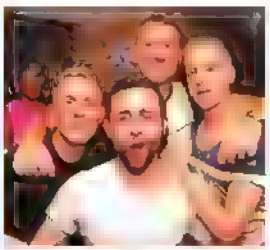


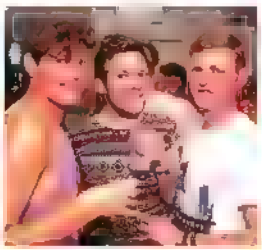



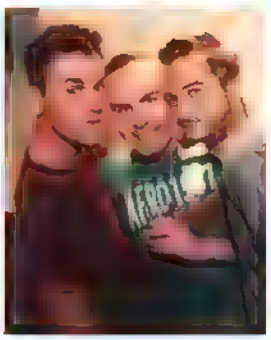
NEW LOOK SATURDAYS!
YOUR DISCO NEEDS YOU!
THE BIGGEST REMIXES, ABSOLUTE ANTHEMS
DANCE CLASSICS, DISCO, HOUSE, COMMERCIAL
FOR THE BIGGEST SATURDAY NIGHT OUT!
EVERY MONDAY NIGHT
£1 DRINKS
WITH DJ MIKE EMERY
BIRMINGHAM'S BAYEST MONDAY NIGHT PARTY!
EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT
GAVINA
SCREAM STAR SUPERSTAR
Wednesdays are...
2 GOOD 2 MISS!
£2
£2.60
Missing
#throwback thursdays
£1.50 BOMBS ALL NIGHT &
SELECTED DRINKS FROM £1.50
BIG GAY Saturday
WITH DJ JAMES
YOUR DISCO NEEDS YOU!
EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT
DOUBLE CABARET
MISS PENNY'S
SUPERSIZE SUNDAYS
LET'S GO MISSING
Missing
MISSING BAR, 48 BROMSGROVE STREET, SOUTHSIDE,
BIRMINGHAM, B5 6NU CALL: 0121 622 4256 EMAIL: INFO@MISSINGBAR.CO.UK
WWW.MISSINGBAR.CO.UK YOURPARTYBAR

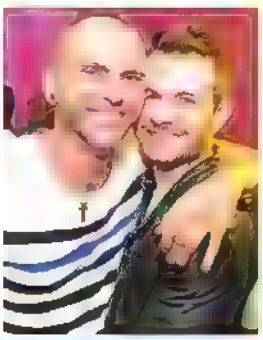
The Village Inn: A fabulous place to party until dawn...



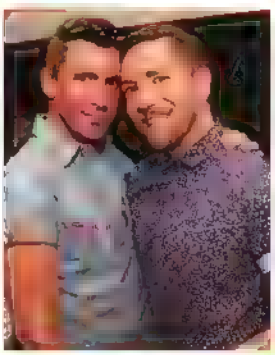


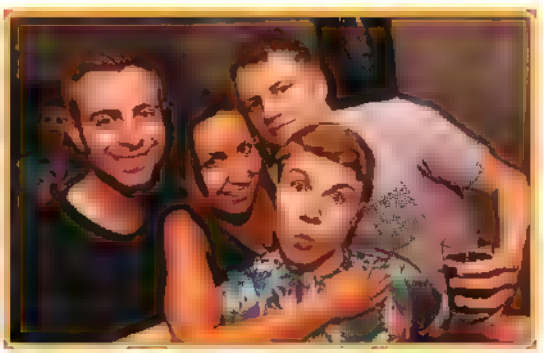


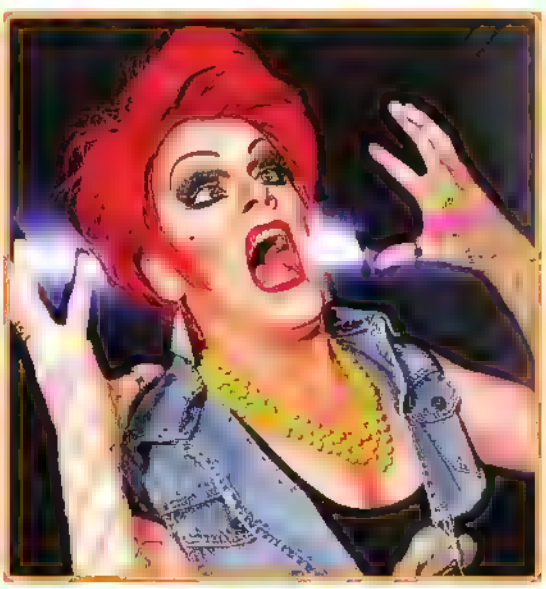




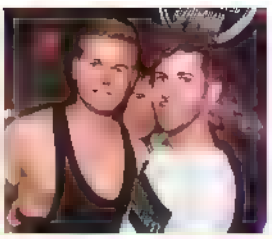
More great photos on **facebook**

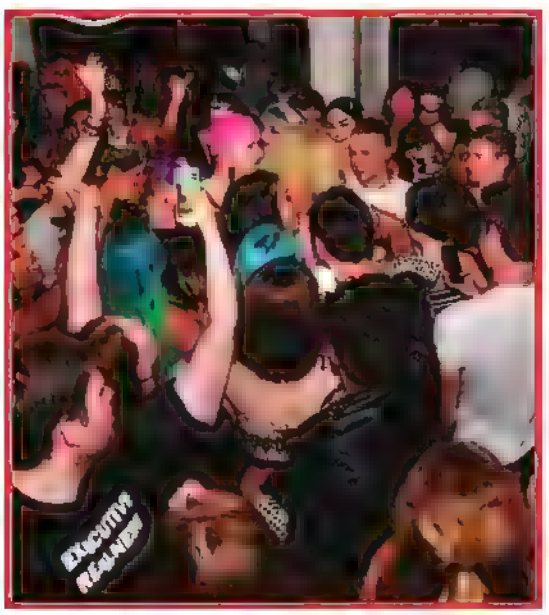


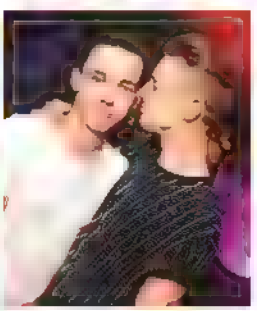


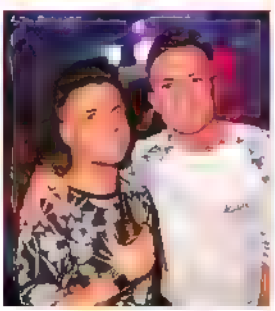


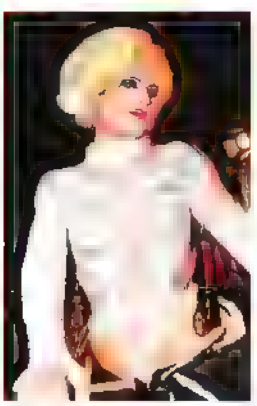
The Nightingale: Where Brum's party people party!

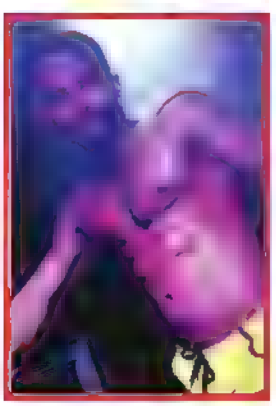


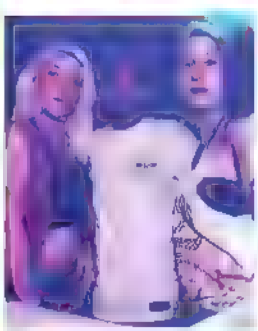


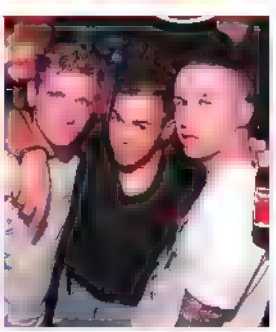


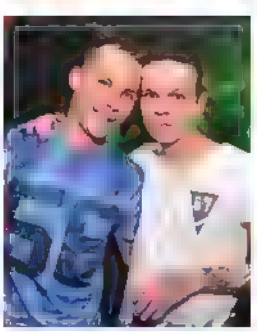


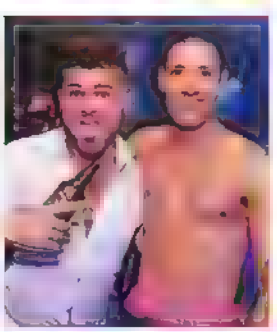






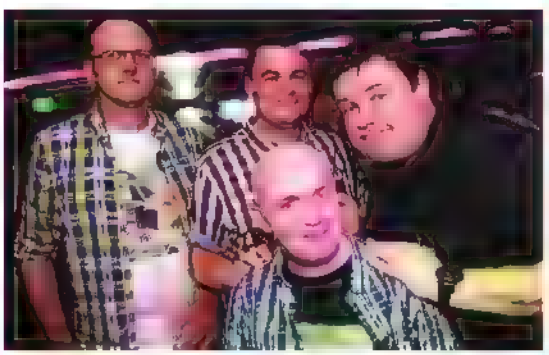






Top-notch cabaret every week at Birmingham's **Eden**

More great photos on **facebook**
facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk



Pictures by Laura Byrne

EDEN SEPTEMBER

eden eden eden — eden eden eden

Open from 2pm every day. 116 Sherlock Street Birmingham B5 6NB 0121 622 1953 | www.theedenbar.co.uk

THURS 3rd

Charlie Hides is an award winning cabaret artist, YouTube sensation and man of 1,000 faces.

FRIDAY 4th

Lip Gloss

with your host MISS PENNY

Cabaret TANYA HYDE

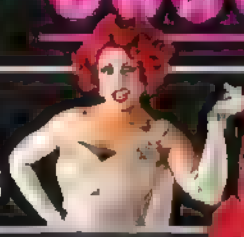
Champagne reception, Topless waiter, Raffle, Buffet,

Stripper EXTREME

SAT 5th

WINNER DANNY BEARD

THURS 10th



La Voix

FROM 10PM DON'T MISS ME MY DARLINGS!

THURS 17th

Charlie Hides is an award winning cabaret artist, YouTube sensation and man of 1,000 faces.

FRIDAY 18th

MIDSBEARS

MidsBears Monthly Meet In the Marquee Special Drinks Offers All Night

ZONE

WINNER - Best Midlands Gay Venue for Men

MIDSBEARS

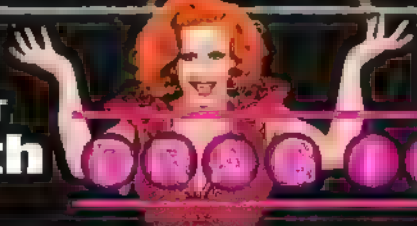
SAT 19th

PANIC ON THE STREETS OF BIRMINGHAM

The Smiths & Morrisey Disco

In the Marquee 9pm - 3am £5 on door.

SAT 26th



MARY MAC

WINNER DANNY BEARD

OUR NEWLY REFURBISHED MARQUEE AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

PRIVATE GARDEN SMOKING AREA SOUND & LIGHT

EVERY THURS

I ♥ THE 90s

90s HITS WITH DJ DAN

GREAT ATMOSPHERE

EVERY FRI & SUN

KARAOKE & DISCO DJ NIKKI

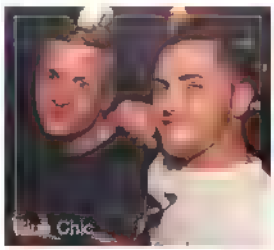
COME ALONG & SING WITH A FRIENDLY REGULAR CROWD

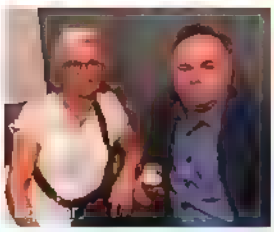
EVERY SAT

80s HITS WITH DJ DAN

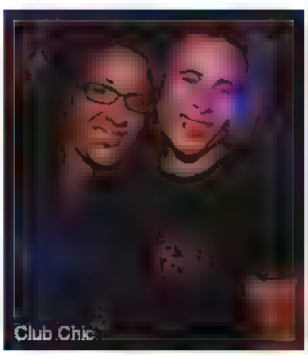
POP & DANCE TILL 2 80s FROM 2-4 AM &

Out and about around **Birmingham's Gay Village...**

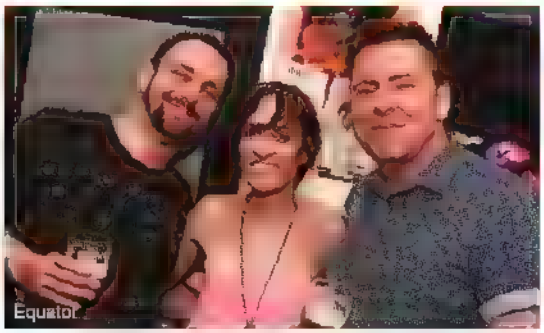




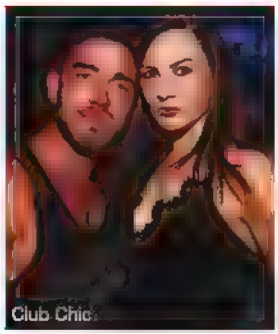
More great photos on **facebook**

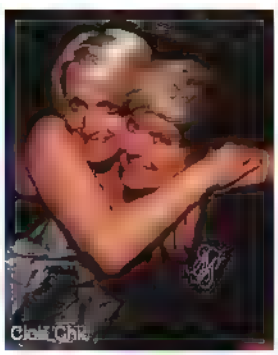


Photos by Laura Byrne


Equator

Sidewalk


Club Chic


Club Chic

The Flex

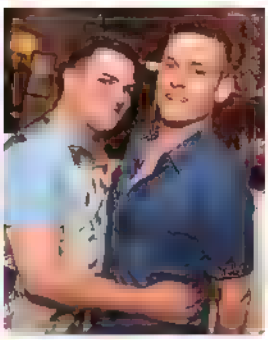
Sidewalk

Sidewalk

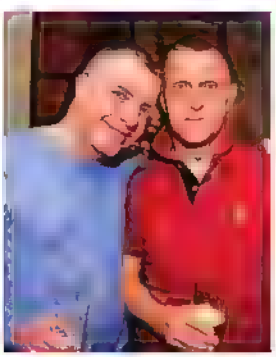
Equator

Club Chic

The Loft Lounge: A great place to get the party going!



More pictures on facebook



Pictures by Laura Byrne

Birmingham

BAR JESTER
Hurst Street
B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 643 8344

BOLTZ CLUB
Lower Essex St B5 6QP
Tel: 0121 666 6888

CLUB CHIC
25 Horsefair B1 1DD
Tel: 0121 666 6806

THE CORE
Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 2797
www.thecoreclub.co.uk

EDEN BAR
Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 1953
www.theedenbar.co.uk
/eden.bar
See pictures on page 54

EQUATOR
Hurst St B5 6SE
Tel: 0121 622 5077

FOUNTAIN INN
Wrentham St, B5 6QL
Tel: 0121 622 1452

THE FOX
17 Lower Essex St
B5 6SN Tel: 0121 622 3213

LOFT LOUNGE
142 Bromsgrove St,
B5 6RG
Tel: 0121 6222 444
www.theloftlounge.co.uk
/The-Loft-Lounge
See pictures on page 48

MISSING BAR
Hurst St B5 6NL
Tel: 0121 622 4256
www.missingbar.co.uk
/missingbar
See pictures on page 50

THE NIGHTINGALE
Kent St, B'ham
B5 6RD
Tel: 0121 622 1718
www.nightingaleclub.co.uk
/thenightingaleclub
See pictures on page 53

RSVP (formerly Queer Street)
Hurst St B5 6SE
Tel: 0121 622 2444

SIDEWALK
Hurst Street,
B1 1EG
Tel: 0121 666 6220
www.sidewalkbirmingm.co.uk
See pictures on page 36

THE VILLAGE INN
Hurst St, B'ham
B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 622 4742
www.villagebirmingham.co.uk
/villageinnbirmingham
See pictures on page 52

THE WELLINGTON
72 Bristol St B5 7AH
Tel: 0121 622 2592

West Midlands

COVENTRY

RAINBOWS
Short St CV1 2LW
Tel: 02476 551738

GLOUCESTER

THE WESTGATE
Westgate Street
GL1 2NF
Tel: 01452 690045

KIDDERMINSTER

ROYAL EXCHANGE
31 New Road DY10 1AF
Tel: 01562 228619

LEEK

VALIANT
3 Stanley Street ST13 5HG
Tel: 01538 382812

SHREWSBURY

C21 CLUB
Abbey Foregate
SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821
www.c21bar.co.uk
/C21Nightclub
p45

THE PEACH TREE
21 Abbey Foregate
Tel: 01743 355055
www.thepeachtree.co.uk
/ThePeachTreeRestaurant

SPIRIT
22 Abbey Foregate
SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821
www.spiritchampagne.co.uk
/SpiritShrewsbury

STOKE-ON-TRENT

GOSSIP
4 Hope Stree
ST1 5BT
Tel: 01782 204957

PINK
93 Stafford Street,
ST1 1LS Tel: 01782 272772

STOURBRIDGE

THE BELL
20 Market St DY8 1AG
Tel: 07826 518478

STRATFORD upon AVON

NO7
Prowd Crowd 1st Mon
monthly 7 Windsor St
Tel: 07787 642510

TELFORD

THREE FURNACES
30 Bridgnorth Rd
Madeley TF7 4AB
Tel: 01952 588521

WALSALL

THE LION
Bridge St
WS1 1DA
Tel: 01922 613927

THE RED LION
Park St WS1 1NW
Tel: 01922 637790

WOLVERHAMPTON

BOND STREET TAVERN
14 Bond St WV2 4AS
Tel: 07825 305050

GORGEOUS
School St WV1 4LF
Tel: 01902 427247
/gorgeousbar
See pictures on page 48

THE WHITE HART
Worcester St
WV2 4LQ
Tel: 01902 424942

WORCESTER

THE FLAG
50 Lowesmoor
WR1 2RS
Tel: 01905 780467

VELVET CLUB
Angel Row
WR1 3QN
Tel: 01905 20218

East Midlands

DERBY

THE CROWN INN
40 Curzon St
DE1 1LL
Tel: 01332 381742

LEICESTER

DOVER CASTLE
34 Dover St LE1 6PT
Tel: 0116 255 3052

HELSINKI
94 Rutland St LE1 1SB
Tel: 0116 254 7568

RAINBOW & DOVE
18b Charles St LE1 1LA
Tel: 0116 254 7568

SLOANES
3-5 New Walk, LE1 6RL
Tel: 0116 255 2220

VENOM
(YOLO) Gay every Wed
Belgrave Gate LE1 3GR
Tel: 0116 251 7986

NORTHAMPTON

THE BOSTON
College St NN1 2QP
Tel: 01604 604404

NOTTINGHAM

NEW FORESTERS
St Ann's St NG1 3LA
Tel: 0115 958 0432

THE NEWMARKET INN
38 Lower Parliament
Street NG1 3BA Gay
Friendly)

NG1 CLUB
76-80 Lower Parliament
St NG1 1EH
Tel: 0115 958 8440

PROPAGANDA
8 Broadway NG1 1PS
0115 979 9183

BIRMINGHAM VENUES

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01743 281714
e: adrian.parker@midlandszone.co.uk

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Arts Groups

ACE 'A Choir of Equality' Meets every Thursday 5.30-7pm, Tel. 01902 425092

ACTING OUT An acting group for the LGBT community open to anyone. Contact acting out 'at'internet.com or visit www.actingout.org.uk

ARTPRIDE Art group. Contact beckytebbett@hotmail.com

BARDS & BOOKS Reading group. Every 1st Monday monthly, LGBT Centre, B'ham e.hadenshouse@hotmail.com

BGSO Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra. Contact: info@bgso.org.uk or visit www.bgso.org.uk

DUDLEY LIBRARY LGBT READING GROUP 1st Friday Of Every Month Tel: 01384 815560

GAPP (Gay and Performing Proudly) Birmingham. Call Mike 07545 507791

LEICESTER POETRY OPEN MIKE NIGHT Meets last Tues monthly at The Red Tent. Tel: Bobba 07777 692881

LEICESTERSHIRE RAINBOW VOICES LGBT choir. Meets every Tues in Leicester. Call: Chris on 07740 855248

LGBT READING GROUP Every 3rd Wednesday monthly, 7pm. Tel: Jayne 01902 552060

JOURNEY FILM GROUP LGBT Film group meets every 1st & 3rd Tuesday monthly. www.journeyfilmclub.co.uk

RAINBOW SPIRIT Creative activities for gay men. Call: Jon 07974 477206

RAINBOW VOICES LGBT choir. Call Carolyn 07828 647364 or Steve 07813 025990

SMETHWICK LIBRARY LGBT Reading Group. 1st Monday monthly @ 5.45pm. Tel: 0121 558 0497

UNTOLD STORIES LGBT History project in Leicestershire & Rutland e: dennis@leicestergbt centre.org

WALSALL LGBT BOOK CLUB 1st Sat monthly, 11am, Walsall Central Library. Contact: Kim 01922 653121

LGBT Social

ALLSORTS Group for young adults (18-26) LGBT Centre, Leicester. Call: Paul Foxon 0116 254 7412

ANOTHER WAY LGBT Social group meets in Walsall every Saturday 12-2pm. Village Hub, Caldmore, Walsall. Tel: 07475 942929

BROTHERHOOD Group for anyone transitioning from Female to Male (18+) LGBT Centre, Leicester. Call: Dennis 0116 254 7412

BRUM BI GROUP Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm at the HGL drop in. Tel: 07532 385760.

BRUM DINING OUT Meets at a different restaurant each month e: brumdiningout@hotmail.com

CORBY LGBT NETWORK Friendship, socialising and information exchange. 3rd Wed monthly, 7.30pm www.corbylgbt.co.uk

COVENTRY LADS social group away from the scene. Call 02476 229292

DE MONTFORT LGBT SOCIETY Based in Leicester. www.dmulgbt.co.uk

DERBYSHIRE CC Employee Network.www.derbyshire.gov.uk/councilequalities/employee_network/lgbt

DERBYSHIRE REACHOUT Men's Social Group. Tel: 01332 207704

DOSTI South Asian men's group, Leicester. Call: 0116 254 1747

DUDLEY GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S SOCIAL NON-SCENE GROUP 2nd Sat monthly. Free buffet lunch provided. Call: Matt Barlow on 01384 243220

THE EDWARD CARPENTER COMMUNITY OF GAY MEN Call: 08703 215121 Birmingham contact: 0121 551 3161

EVERGREEN LGBT Social Group in B'ham Tel: 07749 412269

FAN LGBT Social Events Group. Northants www.fannorthants.co.uk

GAY CLASSIC CAR GROUP Call: Simon on 0121 566 4166

GAYMEZ LGBT Games Night in Wolverhampton. Twice monthly. Thurs 8-10pm. Tel: 01902 425092

GLOUCESTERSHIRE Gay & Lesbian Community. Social group meets every Thurs @ Gloucs Centre 7.30. Tel: 07050 627273

HEREFORD LGBT Gay Men's Drop-In The Health Centre, Gaol Street, Hereford. No appointment necessary

HIGH 5 GROUP Social Group for men affected by HIV in Leicestershire. Tel: 0116 254 1747

I:ME Group for BME LGBT people in Wolverhampton. 2nd Sunday monthly. Tel: 07817 548802

LADS CAFE Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

LADS CAFE Weekly gathering for Gay & Bisexual men in Wolverhampton. Every Monday 6-9pm. Tel: 07788 673666

LAVENDAR MOVEMENT Planting flowers for all to enjoy. Meet every Tues. e: thelavendarmovement@gmail.com

LEICESTER GAY GROUP Call: Pete on 0116 291 6138

LEICESTER LGBT CENTRE CAFE Leicester. Call: 0116 254 7412

LGBT PARENTS Network for LGBT parents. www.lgbtparents.net

LGBT SHREWSBURY What's happening in Shrewsbury. lgbtshrewsbury.co.uk

LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE Stoke on Trent. Meets every Wed at The Observatory, Hanley www.gaystoke.org.uk

NOTTINGHAM BREAKOUT Meets every Tuesday from 7.30. Contact 01159476868

NUBIAN RAINBOW Celebrating black LGBT people in the community. West Midlands Social Group. Tel: 0121 446 1086

OUT EVERYWHERE Bringing people together since 1995. Call: 08450 060050

PINK SOU'WESTERS South West B'ham LGBT Group. Offers non-scene social events and activities. Call: 07976 274271

QUIZ NIGHT 1st Wednesday monthly 7pm @ Gorgeous Wolves. Tel: 01902 425092

SANDWELL Gay & Bisexual Men's Social Non-Scene Group. 4th Sat monthly. Free buffet lunch provided. Call: Matt Barlow on 01384 243220

SHREWSBURY CHILL OUT MONDAYS 1st Mon monthly at Old Market Hall Cafe. 8.15pm. Shrewsbury

SOUTH ASIANS LGBT Finding A voice. Social Group in Birmingham. Meet once a month at B'ham LGBT Centre. Call: 0121 643 1160

THIRD WAY Social Group for Bi people over 18. Every 3rd Tuesday monthly in Wolverhampton. 7-9pm. Tel: 01902 425092

TRUE COLOURS Derby based BME LGBT Social group. Call: 07779 560284

WAGS Walsall Activities Social Group. Over 18s only e: sgawwalsall@hotmail.com

WARWICK PRIDE Social society. Organises events on and around the University Campus e: hello@warwickpride.org

WORCESTER LGBT NETWORK Community Group www.brewery-tap.org.uk

WS-MIDLANDS LGBT Social group. Every 1st Tues monthly 7.9pm in Walsall. Tel: 07895 661557

LGBT Forums

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL EMPLOYEE NETWORK Formed in 2002. Email: bccigbt@hotmail.com

BIRMINGHAM LGBT COMMUNITY TRUST campaigning and lobbying, promoting community cohesion and representing LGBT community's views e: daveviney@bigbt.org

BIRMINGHAM LGBT COMMUNITY TRUST FORUM For LGB Groups. Quarterly Forum open to all LGB groups for networking e: daveviney@bigbt.org

BLACK GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S DISCUSSION FORUM. A safe discrete confidential space for black men to discuss issues that affect their lives. Call: 0121 446 1086

GAY BIRMINGHAM REMEMBERED LGBT history project e: davena@gaybirmingham remembered.org.uk

LEICESTER LGB & T CENTRE Host numerous social groups. Call: 0116 254 7412

LGBT WOLVERHAMPTON To raise and develop the profile of the Wolves LGBT community. Tel: 01902 425092

MIDLANDS LGBT EMPLOYEES NETWORK Call: 02476 492711

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Gay Men's Drop-in. Call: 01782 425969

PINK SHIELD Working to make Birmingham a safer place for the LGBT Community. Tel: 0121 622 2592

PRISM A forum for LGBT people in Leicester. Call: 0116 254 7412

RAINBOW HERITAGE Nottinghamshire. Call: 0115 934 9529

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Holds events for professionals and the LGBT community. Tel: 0116 254 1747

Mature Groups

EMBRACE Group for gay and bi men in Coventry aged over 50. Rainbows Coventry. Call: James on 07824 448717 or Nichola on 02476 231999

GREYPRIDE LEICESTER mixed group aimed at mature LGBT people. Call: 0116 254 7412

LADS LUNCH Monthly lunch for mature Gay & Bisexual men in Wolverhampton. 3rd Sat monthly 11am-2pm. Tel: 01902 425092

LGBT 50+ South Staffs social group for people 50+. e:lgbtstaffordshirebuddies.co.uk

MATURE GAY GROUP Meets in Shrewsbury every Friday, 11am - 1pm. Call: Trevor on 07779 661640

MATURE GAY MEN For older gay men. Call: Trevor on 07754 829548

OLDER LADS CAFE Weekly group for mature (over 40) Gay and Bi-sexual men in Wolves. Every Monday 1-4pm. Tel: 01902 425092

OLDER LBQ Women's network social group. Derby based. Call: 07779 560284

RUBY'S A mature lesbian & bisexual women's group. Tel: 01902 425092

STOKE OLDER PERSONS GROUP Social group for mature LGBT. Tel: 01782 266998

Religious Groups

BIRMINGHAM BUDDHIST CENTRE Meditation Drop-in classes. Tel: 0121 449 5279

BIRMINGHAM L.G.C.M Christian Organisation group. Tel: 07943 010345

CHANGING ATTITUDE Contact The Revd Colin Coward on 01380 724908

DERBY QUEST for Spirituality. Sun 5-6.30pm. Tel: 07970 812957

JOURNEY METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH Birmingham. Call: 0121 454 4406. Wolverhampton: Call: 07734 155664

LEICESTER GAY CATHOLICS A group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people, their families and friends. Call: 07905 421915

LESBIAN & GAY CHRISTIANS Lesbian and gay Christian movement. Tel: 0121 453 1299 or text/text 07943 010345

QUAKER Lesbian & Gay Fellowship. Social and supportive group founded on Quaker spiritual principals. www.qlgf.org.uk

QUEST LINKLINE A national helpline service for lesbian, gay and bisexual Catholics. Tel: 0808 808 0234

RAINBOW MOOT LGBT Pagans. All Pagan paths welcome. Call: Rob 07943 323989

STAFFORDSHIRE LESBIAN AND GAY CHRISTIANS. Support group for lesbian and gay christians e: lana29 @hotmail.com or call 07974 7647

Sport & Fitness

BIRMINGHAM BLAZE LGBT Friendly Football Team www.birmingham-blaze.co.uk

BIRMINGHAM BULLS LGBT friendly Rugby Team. Call Andy 07708 536416 or visit birminghambullsrfc.com

BOURNVILLE LADIES HOCKEY CLUB LGBT friendly hockey in south Birmingham www.bournvillehc.co.uk

LEICESTER WILDE CATS Gay & Lesbian Football Team. Call Gareth 0116 270 0137

LGBT Community indoor Football: Wolverhampton. Tel: 01902 425092

LGBT TABLE TENNIS CLUB 1st & 3rd Wed monthly 7-8.30pm. Tel: 0121 643 0821

LGBT Zumba Wolverhampton. Tel: 01902 425092

GAY OUTDOOR CLUB Walks twice a month on Sundays. Contact gocwm@yahoo.co.uk

MIDLANDS OUT BADMINTON Birmingham. Call: Andy on 02476 346141

MOSELEY SHOALS Birmingham's GOC Gay Swim Group. For info: call 0121 346 1522

NOTTINGHAM BALL BOYS Gay football team founded in 2006. Call: 07828 014952

OUTDOORLADS Outdoor pursuits group for gay lads. www.outdoorlads.com

STOKE PANTHERS BADMINTON SQUASH CLUB Call: Andy on 01782 266998 5167

WOLVES WALKERS Tel: 01902 425092

WOLVES WARRIORS Football Club. Tel: Andy on 07825 305050

Student Groups

BIRMINGHAM CITY UNI LGBT Social events every week. www.bculgbt.com

LGBT & FRIENDS SOCIETY University of Derby Students Union. www.udsulgbt.com

LGBTASTON UNIVERSITY Tel: 0121 204 3000

STUDENT GROUPS Leicester University - contact Alex e: arp19@leicester.ac.uk or Hayley e: dmulgbtpresident@hotmail.co.uk

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM LGBTQ ASSOCIATION Social events every Wednesdays & Sundays. e: lgbtq@guild.bham.ac.uk

Women's Groups

BIRMINGHAM GIRLS e-mail network e: Birmingham Girlsnetworksubscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk

BIRMINGHAM GIRLS BOOK GROUP Women-centered book group. Meets 1st Sun of the month 3-5pm. Tel: 0121 622 3213

BI-WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP For information contact Bobbie at space316808@hotmail.com

BOOTWOMEN. Walks in the Midlands area. Call: 07505 970991

BORDER WOMEN Network for lesbian and Bi women. www.borderwomen.net

L:BOW ROOM Social Group for women over 18. Meets every 2nd & fourth Wednesday monthly. Tel: 07817 548802

FOX FILM CLUB Women-centred film club every 3rd Sunday monthly. www.foxbar.co.uk

KIDDERMINSTER GIRLS Lesbian social group meets bi-weekly at local pub e: jillygaiore@blueyonder.co.uk

DO YOU NEED TO GIVE YOUR LGBT COMMUNITY GROUP BETTER EXPOSURE?

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Do you need to feature your group? contact Ryan Humphreys (Editor) on 01743 281722

To find out more about all these organisations their website

To get your LGBT Group listed: Call Adrian Parker on 01743 281714

OLDER LESBIAN GROUP for the over 40's meets every 2nd Saturday of the month at 1pm at 10 Norton Tower. Contact olnsue@hotmail.co.uk

RUBY'S Mature Women's Group, Wolverhampton Tel: 01902 425092

RUBYFRUIT WOMEN Leicester based non-scene social group for lesbian, bisexual and questioning women of all ages. Wednesday nights from 7pm. Tel: 07512 156474

THE PINK LINK is a social space in Staffordshire for women with a different vision. Call 01782 266996

WORCESTER LESBIAN GROUP Meets twice monthly e: ma.myself_79@outlook.com

Youth Groups

1ST OUT YOUTH GROUP Leicester LGBT Centre, 15 Wellington Street Leicester. Call: Paul Foxon on 0116 254 7412

DERBYSHIRE LGBT Youth Forum. Tel: 01332 207704

GALAXY Group for lesbian, gay and bisexual young people aged 18 and under in Stoke on Trent and North Staffordshire. Call 0300 123 0970

I-MIX Group for young LGBTQ people in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

INSIDE OUT (Sandwell) A youth club for LGBT and questioning young people and their friends. Tel: 0845 352 1276

OUTBURST Nottingham Support group for LGBT young people. Tel: 0115 952 5040

OUT CENTRAL LGBT youth group for young people 13-19 who are LGBT or questioning their sexuality Call 07826 873458

OUT EAST Youth group based in Sutton Coldfield Tel: 07795 611781

PRISM LGBTQ Support group for young people in Coventry info@prismlgbtq.org

SHOUT (Sandwell) An LGBT youth steering group which works towards giving LGBT young people a voice in Sandwell. Tel: 0845 352 1276

SPACE LGBT YOUTH GROUP A group for young people aged 13 to 21. Tel: 01543 411413

SPECTRUM - YOUNG LGBT SOCIAL GROUP Leicestershire Group offering opportunities for young LGBT people. Call: 0116 254 7412

UNIQUE Group for young LGBTQ people. Meet twice monthly on Sundays. Call Matt or Justin 01384 243220

X2Y Group for young LGBT people in Wolverhampton. Every Saturday e: info@x2y.org.uk

HIV AIDS Helplines

ABPLUS A Charity supporting people living with and affected by HIV Call 0121 622 6471

FRESHWINDS HOUSE Holistic care and support for people with life threatening illness. Tel: 0121 415 6670 (6 lines)

HEALTHY GAY LIFE - BIRMINGHAM Free confidential service working with Gay, Bisexual men to promote sexual, mental and social health and well-being. Tel: 0121 440 6161

LEICESTERSHIRE AIDS SUPPORT SERVICES Tel: 0116 255 9995

STAFFORDSHIRE BUDDIES Confidential help and support for people living with or affected by HIV Tel: 01782 201251

SUMMIT HOUSE SUPPORT Practical Support and confidential advice around all HIV/AIDS related issues in the Dudley / Sandwell borough. Tel: 01384 243220

TERRENCE HIGGINS TRUST Offer a range of services for those infected and affected by HIV and STIs. Birmingham: 0121 694 6440 Solihull: 0121 694 6440 Coventry: 02476 229292 Nottingham: 0115 882 0121 Telford: 01952 221410 Wolves: 01902 711818

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers a range of confidential services advice and support for LGBT communities affected by HIV & STIs. Leicester Tel: 0116 254 1747

LGBT Helplines

COVENTRY & WARWICK SHIRE FRIEND Tel: 02476 714199

DERBYSHIRE LGBT SWITCHBOARD Tel: 01332 349333

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTEGRATED RESPONSE PROJECT Leicester. Tel: 0116 255 0004

GAYLIFE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Tel: 0300 123 0970

HATE CRIME NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Talk to a Hate Crime officer in complete confidence Stoke area. Tel: 01782 266998 (Loleita Higgins) North Staffs Tel: 01785 233458 (John Wilson)

LBG COUNSELLING SERVICE Free counselling service for all sorts of LGB related issues. Call: 01782 425969

LEICESTER LGBT HELP-LINE Tel: 0116 255 0667

LGBT AA MEETING West Midlands. 8pm every Sat Summit House, Dudley. Tel: 01384 243220

LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE Stoke on Trent & North Staffs Tel: 01782 266998

NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN & GAY SWITCHBOARD 0115 934 8485 or 01623 621515

RAINBOW SUPPORT, HEREFORDSHIRE free and confidential support Call 07507 447834

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers counselling services and one to one support for LGB communities Leicester. Tel: 0116 254 1747

VICTIM SUPPORT Provides emotional support and practical help to anyone who has been a victim of crime. Tel: 0300 303 1977

Sexual Health

BIRMINGHAM LGBT CENTRE Support Groups, Sexual Health Testing, Cafe Community Groups Events and more. Tel: 0121 643 0821

THE BRIDGE CENTRE Shrewsbury. A free sexual health service for gay and Bisexual men. Tel: 01743 344474

[illegible] and confidential sexual health services in the West Tel: 0121 248 2500

DUDLEY GAY MEN'S PROJECT Free & Confidential support service for gay, bi-sexual and MSM men living in or around Dudley. Call: Matt Barlow 07980 906895

HAWTHORNE HOUSE Sexual health testing also operates a Walk in Service every morning from 9.30am - 11.30am. Tel: 0121 424 3300 or 0121 424 2456

HEALTHY GAY LIFE Birmingham: Free confidential service working with Gay/ Bisexual men to promote sexual, mental and social health and well-being. Call 0121 440 6161

HEREFORD SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC @ GAOL STREET Open Monday - Friday Call 01432 378915 for appointments and walk in times

HIV FAST TEST Free 20 minute HIV testing in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

HIV TESTING by appointment at Summit House, West Bromwich. Call Matt Barlow on 01384 243220 or 0121 500 5205

KWIK PRICK Rapid HIV Testing. Leicester. Call: 0116 254 1747

LGBT SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE Free services for the LGBT community who work or reside in South Staffs Tel: 01543 411413

MEN ONLY Sexual Health Clinic at Heroes Health Club, Stourbridge. Call Matt 07980 906895

MEN'S HIV FAST TEST CLINIC Free 20 minute testing in Nottingham. 1st Monday monthly. Call: Adrian on 0115 883 9081

OUTMINDS A social support group for gay and bisexual men with mental health problems living in the Solihull borough. Call 0121 742 4941

SANDWELL GAY & BI MEN'S SERVICE Sexual health and social support. Call Matt Barlow 07980 906895

THE RAINBOW PRACTICE Every 1st & last Wednesday of the month Held at The Gay Men's Drop-In. Call: 0300 123 0970

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers a range of confidential services for LGB&T individuals and support for HIV & STIs including testing services Leicester Tel: 0116 254 1747

WALSALL GAY MEN'S HEALTH PROJECT Delivering health and social care services to the LGBT community. Tel: 01922 613141

WHITTALL STREET A sexual health clinic located in Birmingham city centre Tel: 0121 237 5700

WORCESTERSHIRE GAY MEN'S HEALTH Project providing free, confidential advice & support Tel: 01905 681751

Support Groups

ABplus Poz Gay Men's Group. Meets 1st Thursday monthly for information and support. Call: Peter on 07960 404926

ALCOHOL & DRUGS SMART Recovery SMART meetings in a friendly environment e: smartblgbt@yahoo.com

BIRMINGHAM PARENTS' SUPPORT GROUP Meets 1st Wednesday Bi-monthly in Solihull. Tel: Maureen on 0121 742 0230

BEAM (Black ethnic & Asian Minority) Social and Support Group in Leicester. Call 0116 254 7412

COVENTRY & WARWICKSHIRE FRIEND gay, lesbian, bisexual or trans? Need to talk? Call 02476 714199 Mon - Fri 7.30pm - 9pm

CHANGES Based in Wolverhampton. Call: lisa on 07864240222 or Maria on 07542 450163

DOSTI South Asian men's support group Leicester Call: 0116 254 1747

GROUP ONE Derby based support group for LGBT families call: 07779 560284

HGL COUNSELLING & PSYCHOTHERAPY Mental and sexual health, for lesbians, bisexuals, gay men and trans people with a choice of male or female counsellors Tel: 0121 446 1085 or 07976 919481

HGL MARRIED MEN'S GROUP Support and advice for married men. Call: 0121 440 6161

HIGH 5 GROUP An HIV awareness group for gay/bisexual men who are affected by HIV. Group provides Support, events, outings. Leicester. Tel: 0116 254 1747

HIV MEN'S GROUP Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

HIV WOMEN'S GROUP Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

INFORMAL ONE TO ONE SUPPORT A service for young men, south Asian men and African Caribbean men. Tel: 0121 440 6161 Email: info@hgl.nhs.uk

LEICESTER LGB&T CENTRE Host numerous support groups. Call: 0116 254 7412

LGBT ALCOHOL SUPPORT GROUP Offer support to anybody in the gay community who has alcohol related problems. Tel: Tony on 0121 440 6161 or 07760 195642

LGBT NETWORK Stoke on Trent & North Staffordshire. Tel: 01782 266998

LGBT NETWORK Wolverhampton. Holistic support for LGB&T people in the Black Country. Tel: 01902 425092

LGBT COUNSELLING Wolverhampton. Tel: 01902 425092

LGBT PROFESSIONALS in Wolverhampton. Meets once a month. Tel: 01902 425092

MIND OUT Mental Health Support Group in Wolverhampton. 1st and 3rd Wednesday monthly. Tel: 01902 425092

NATURAL HEALING For emotional and physical health. Contact Allison Lesbian Homeopath Tel: 01902 686087

NEW ROAD PARENTS Bromsgrove and surrounding areas. Supporting parents of LGBT people Meets bi-monthly on the 1st Wed. Tel: Margaret 01527 832492

PINK PARENTS A social, networking group for all lesbian and gay parents and their children. E: pink parents@virginmedia.com

RANK OUTSIDERS Support group for LGB armed forces personnel past & present. Helpline: 0870 740 7755

RAPE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE PROJECT BIRMINGHAM Free confidential counselling for LGBT survivors of sexual, domestic violence and hate crimes. Tel: 0121 643 0301

SANDWELL Gay & Bisexual Men's Drop-in Service Every Friday. Tel: 01384 243220

SWAIN Wyre Forest Meets the first Wednesday monthly. For more details phone: Tel: 07842 070 240

TIME OUT COUNSELLING Coventry. For all LGBT+ people. Tel: 07936 525668

WORCESTER LGBT NETWORK Tel: 01905 429800

Trans Support

LEICESTER BUTTERFLIES for info visit facebook.com/groups/butterfliesleicester/

OUTSKIRTS TRANS-GENDER SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP The West Midlands largest transgender social support group. Email: sally@outskirtgtg.co.uk or visit www.outskirtstg.co.uk

SANCTUARY Providing support and practical help Tel: 01902 744424

SANCTUARY STOKE Support people who are Transsexual, Transvestite or Transgender in North Staffs. www.gaystoke.org.uk

TRANS SOUTH STAFFS Support and group for people who are Trans, Transvestite or Transgender. Tel: 01543 411413

TRANS SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP Meets every 1st and 3rd Monday monthly. Tel: 01902 425092

and contact details visit: www.midlandszone.co.uk

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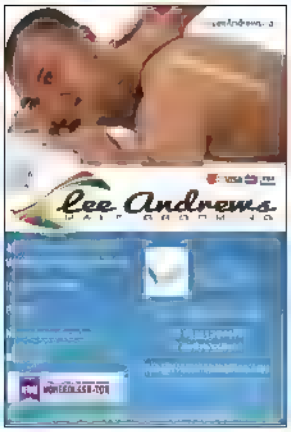

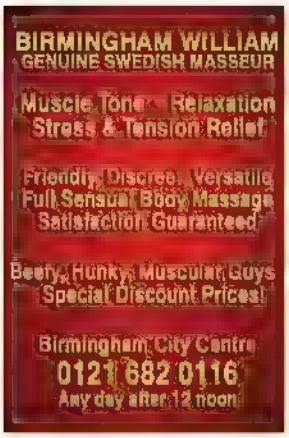

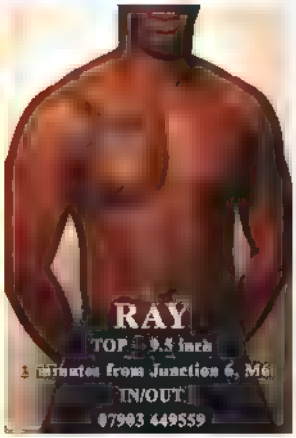

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gay-sauna.com

SPARTAN
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127 George Road, Erdington
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spartanhealthclub.co.uk

SPLASH SPA & LEISURE
Tel: 0116 367 3932
61 Bedford St,
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unit2sauna.info

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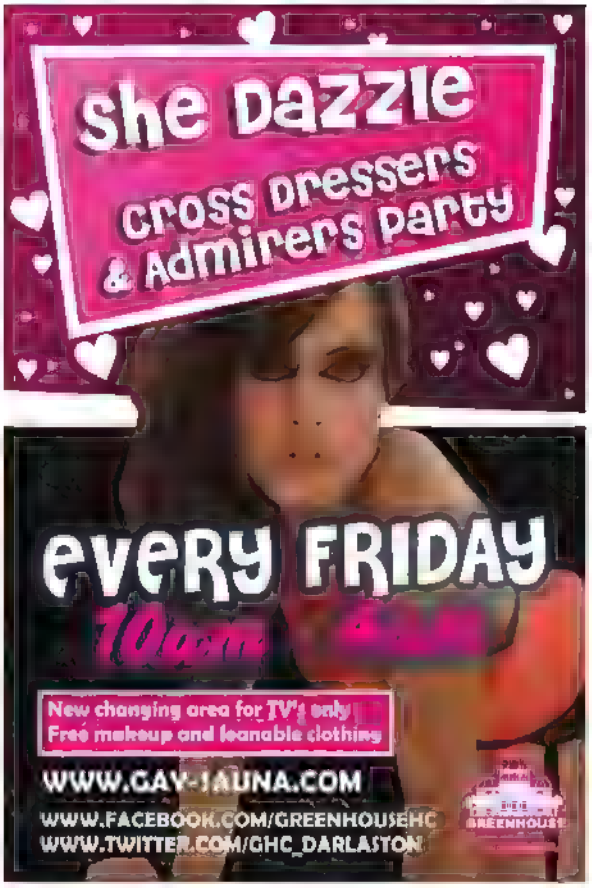
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THE EDITOR'S NOTE by Ryan Humphreys

So long, summer...

Well, summer is flying, autumn is here - and let's face it, it really won't be too long before we're all decking the halls with boughs of holly!
Yep, a year nowadays seems to fly by in the blink of an eye. How is it that when you're a kid it seems to take about 500 years to get from one Christmas to the next but only five minutes once you're an adult?
I'll leave that one with you...

Passion for Prides

...And while you're pondering that tricky little question, I'll take this opportunity to jot down a few words about the soon-to-end 2015 season of Pride festivals.

Did you get out and about to enjoy the best the Midlands has to offer? We certainly did, stopping off with our trusty camera at all manner of LGBT celebrations - some in sunshine, others in rain, but all of them presenting a fantastic experience for the gay community and their friends to enjoy.

This year's Birmingham Pride proved to be an absolute cracker. The festival really seems to have come of age recently, with organisers well versed in what works and what doesn't. Pride visitors seem to have 'gotten with the programme' too, recognising that the big Brum bash can more than hold its own with any other UK Pride festival.

Alongside other similarly well-established get-togethers - such as Nottinghamshire, Walsall and Stoke, to name but a few - the region has also seen some new kids on the block entering the fray this summer, with both Chesterfield Pride and Coventry Pride enjoying successful launch events.

The more is most definitely the merrier when it comes to gay festivals, so it's great to see the Midlands' Pride calendar continuing to expand.

The closet door's open...

No fewer than 49 percent of 18 to 24-year-olds who took part in a new YouGov survey have defined themselves as something other than totally heterosexual. Six of the 49 percent identified as totally homosexual, while the remaining 43 percent positioned themselves somewhere along the Kinsey scale of sexual orientation.

All of which makes me marvel at how much our society has changed - and continues to change - for the better. It's amazing to think that, within the lifetime of our older folk, there's been a situation in which homosexuality was illegal and gays did well to keep their 'preference' a closely guarded secret. Now, as the YouGov survey clearly illustrates, our younger generation of adults have no qualms whatsoever about being out and proud - or at least about having the closet door open a bit, even if they haven't boldly stepped through it.

Check out Steve Ball's column (right) to read more about the YouGov survey results...

A fitting tribute

Hundreds of people turned out on the 12th of last month to attend the funeral of popular Birmingham gay scene DJ Mykee Mackenzie. Mykee was found dead in his flat above Missing Bar in Birmingham's Hurst Street in July.

A traditional Roman Catholic service was held at the Church of Our Lady and St Brigid's in Northfield, where around three hundred friends, family and colleagues turned out in colourful dress and replicas of Mykee's signature red hats to pay their final respects to a much-admired scene personality. The whole day was a fitting tribute to a lovely fella who will be much missed by all who knew him.

RIP, Mykee.

ON THE BALL with Steve Ball

Betsy both ways

Have a guess how many young people in the UK say they're straight. Eighty percent? Ninety percent? According to research by YouGov, only 49 percent of 18 to 24-year-olds describe themselves as exclusively heterosexual. Six percent say they're gay, the remainder that they're between the two.
People were asked to place themselves on the Kinsey scale, developed by American biologist Alfred Kinsey in the 1940s. On his model, level zero is exclusively straight and level six is exclusively gay. Younger people were six times more likely than older people to identify as bisexual. That's not to suggest that 45 percent of the population are actively bisexual, of course. Many may simply be curious or questioning, but it does suggest an increasingly open-minded approach to sexuality. The 18-to-24s are much less likely than their elders to see sexuality as something that's set in stone.
It may well also have something to do with the increased profile of bisexuals past and present. Iconic film stars such as Greta Garbo, Joan Crawford and Marlon Brando, as well as contemporary stars of the music scene including Duncan James, Lady GaGa and Miley Cyrus, have made bisexuality hip and acceptable.
At the end of the day it really doesn't matter what labels we use to describe ourselves. Much better that we have the open mindedness to accept ourselves and the fluid nature of human sexuality.

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